

THE



TIMES

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'Ship has lost anchor, we are sick'

# Gorbachov in plea for US trade accord

FROM PETER STOTHARD AND MARY DEJEVSKY IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Gorbachov yesterday put his economic troubles at the centre of the summit stage, seeking American support for his "genuine revolution", but declaring that he had no intention of begging for a trade agreement.

The Soviet leader made clear his strong desire for such an agreement to be signed at the summit, but vigorously defended the Lithuanian crackdown which the American side sees as standing in its way.

As his arch-rival Mr Boris Yeltsin was meeting President Landsbergis in Moscow, Mr Gorbachov denounced the Lithuanian leader and emphasized to his critics among congressional leaders the connection between perestroika, of which they approve, and the refusal to grant independence to the Baltic republic. In phrases now familiar but still striking in Washington, he described the Lithuanian gov-

ernment as having mounted a "night coup d'état" to declare a state of independence that would be rejected by the Lithuanian people as a whole. In a derisive reference to the Mr Landsbergis, he described the breakaway government as led by "musicians not politicians. They may be good musicians, I don't know," he said, "but they have led us into a trap."

He pointed out the threat to economic reform posed by the prospect of similar nationalist claims in the Ukraine and other parts of the Soviet Union.

Mr Gorbachov said he would not insist that Lithuania was simply an internal matter, since "when you link it to trade that commits me to be more active". Instead, he emphasized what he called the absurd decision of the republic's government at a time when the Soviet reforms were at so delicate a stage.

The USSR had left a command system of running its economy and was on its way to a market system. But in between, he said, "our ship has lost anchor and we are all a little sick". "If the transition takes too long, it will destabilize our society," he raised the prospect of "an explosion of inflation" and said the present price system reflected nothing but chaos.

Mr Gorbachov made clear that he was not going to beg for a trade agreement, which has been ready for signing for the past few days. "It would be humiliating if we were to beg for something from you," he said. Such a deal would not be any sort of panacea, but it was an important symbol.

He asked the congressional leaders, whose opposition is one of the main obstacles in the way of Mr Bush granting trade concessions, for understanding of his problems. They should not be alarmed at Soviet intentions "because it can frighten us, too, if you get frightened."

The exchange, which came before the day's talks with President Bush on arms control and regional problems, was spirited but good-humoured. In a reference to the use of troops in Panama, he suggested that, if he had been US President, he would have solved the Lithuanian problem in 24 hours. When the Democratic Senate leader, Mr George Mitchell, said the two situations were not the same and that the Panamanian people welcomed the US forces, Mr Gorbachov said, with a smile, that he could have said the same thing about Afghanistan.

While Mr Gorbachov was facing his congressional crit-

ics, senior officials on both sides were preparing for the detailed talks at foreign minister level on the future of Germany. In a television interview, the Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman, Mr Gennadi Gerasimov, repeated the hope expressed by both summit leaders on Thursday that the two sides were moving closer to each other.

The senior American arms negotiator, Mr Richard Burt, said: "The US is taking a new look at security institutions in Europe, including a concept of remodelling Nato for a new era." One of the main areas thought to have been discussed by Mr James Baker, the Secretary of State, and his Soviet counterpart, Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, yesterday was the strengthening of the security role of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE), and means acceptable to Bonn of limiting forces in Germany.

Mr Gorbachov was said to have proposed on Thursday a new council of all Europe with direct American participation. It would feature annual meetings of the 35 Western, neutral and Eastern states that make up the CSCE, more frequent meetings of their foreign ministers, establishment of a secretariat with permanent status, and establishment of conflict management centres, both military and civilian.

An American official said: "We are prepared to work with it; it is not something we would reject out of hand," but he added: "It's nothing startling. They see it as their ticket to a broader inclusion in European consultations."

The emphasis on the future of a united Germany in Nato was criticized yesterday by the West German Foreign Minister, Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, who said Mr Bush and Mr Gorbachov should be encouraging East-West co-operation in uniting Germany rather than fighting over its Nato membership. "I think it's wrong to narrow the whole problem down to a single question and forget the creation of a new Europe is at stake," he said. "There's more to this than just clarity about Germany's alliance membership."

Chancellor Helmut Kohl of West Germany will be a guest at a White House dinner next Friday.

The summit leaders yesterday signed agreements on chemical weapons and cultural relations.

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Yeltsin approach, page 16

## Gower omitted from England Test team

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

DAVID Gower, the former England cricket captain, has been left out of the 12-strong squad for the first Test match against New Zealand at Trent Bridge next week.

Gower, the 33-year-old left-hand batsman, paid the price for two failures in the recent Texaco Trophy matches against New Zealand. He scored only one and four in the limited-over internationals. Overlooked for the winter tour of the West Indies prior to his Texaco recall, Gower

has represented his country 106 times. Neil Fairbrother, of Lancashire, takes Gower's place while Mike Atherton, also from Lancashire, will open the innings with Graham Gooch.

Ted Dexter, chairman of the England committee, said that the selectors felt they would like to see Gower "further consolidate his form after his winter lay-off by scoring more runs for Hampshire".

Team details, page 45

## No right turn on Tiananmen Square

FROM CATHERINE SAMPSON IN PEKING

WHERE victorious tanks last June 4 scored tracks in the paving stones of Tiananmen Square, a year later more than 2,000 cars will gather in a bizarre mass driving lesson. The regime, it seems, has set its public relations specialists the task of coming up with one novel idea a day for keeping protesters off the square without recourse to armoured vehicles in the days running up to the anniversary of last year's massacre.

Tiananmen Square will be the scene of "large-scale organized activities" from June 4 to 6, according to the Peking Youth News yesterday. The paper did not say in so many words that the square would be closed to the public, but it was closed yesterday and is usually closed for official events. On June 4 the Asian

Games Traffic Committee "will assemble on Tiananmen Square more than 2,000 cars chosen to serve the Asian Games in order to give the drivers 'practical' mobilization and education on driving safely", the paper reported. China is mightily proud that it will be hosting the Asian Games in September (and no participants are boycotting it) and is making elaborate preparations.

It is not the first time traffic has been used to political purpose. Chinese leaders like to draw a parallel between society and the roads - both need strict rules, and people have to stick to them.

Tomorrow, a year to the day that troops first opened fire, "relevant departments" will gather to carry out "large-scale activities in commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the Opium War". Commemorating the shameful way in which Britain foisted opium on China and went to war over it has been used by

the regime as a way of promoting anti-foreign feeling during the past few weeks. Both these events have the undeniable advantages of ruling out demonstrations on the square while avoiding the controversy of a military parade but still being patriotic events.

Yesterday, the first day of the month, marked the beginning of the run-up to June 4 in earnest, and Tiananmen Square was sealed off - this time by teenagers given the dubious honour because it was International Children's Day. A giant Asian Games panda has been erected on the square, perhaps as a patriotic replacement for the Goddess of Democracy statue toppled by tanks a year ago. Banners hailing the immortality of the Communist Party flutter where last year students hung brave but doomed V-for-victory signs.

Security crackdown, page 7

## Poll tax mass hearing collapses

BY DAVID SAMPSTED

THE first prosecutions in England for non-payment of the poll tax collapsed yesterday at a magistrates' court in Newport, Isle of Wight.

Magistrates ruled that summonses issued by Medina borough council were void, after hearing the first of 1,845 cases scheduled to come before them. The decision was made on the ground that the Tory-controlled council had not left sufficient time between sending final notices and issuing the summonses.

The move will come as an embarrassment to the council and the Government, which was looking to the Medina prosecutions to encourage other non-payers to comply. Anti-poll tax protesters, including Mr David Icke, the Green Party spokesman and television presenter, hailed the decision. The case against him was being heard when the magistrates decided to scrap the summonses.

The magistrates dealt with 57 cases. Liability orders were placed against 48 of the non-payers. However, the fact that the summonses have been declared void means that those who were dealt with will have to go to the High Court to get the orders overturned. Medina council said no attempt would be made to enforce them in the interim.

Austerity package, page 2



Mr David Icke: Hailed magistrates' decision

## Bonn bans British beef and Italy plans curbs

BY MICHAEL HORNSBY IN LONDON AND IAN MURRAY IN BONN

THE cross-Channel "beef war" intensified yesterday as West Germany and Luxembourg joined France in banning beef imports from Britain because of concern that the "mad cow" disease could harm the health of consumers.

Last night the Belgian Health Ministry advised Belgians not to eat British beef pending the outcome of a health inquiry. There were also reports that Italy was about to impose similar curbs.

West Germany and Luxembourg are smaller markets for British beef than France, but those three countries together accounted last year for more than £190 million out of a worldwide trade worth £304 million. West Germany buying 9,100 tonnes and France 70,000 tonnes.

The Bonn move will affect Scottish farmers particularly hard as West German importers have increasingly switched

to buying beef from Scottish herds which are almost free of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), a disease mainly confined to dairy fields in the south of England.

At a hastily-convened meeting in Edinburgh of the Scottish National Farmers' Union, Mr John Ross, its president, called for retaliatory action against the French and West German bans which, he said, could lead to the loss of up to 20,000 jobs.

"We now have a damaging and disgraceful Euro-farce in the beef market - and it makes total nonsense of both Common Market principles and law. These actions are not being taken for human or health reasons. They are attempts to protect internal national commercial interests. We must protect our interests too. So the British Government must now be prepared to take trade retaliation against

any country banning British beef. We need quick and resolute action to end this nonsense because we in Scotland are major exporters of high quality, healthy beef, and we have a right as members of the EC to look forward to continuation and expansion of our export trade."

In London, Sir Simon Gourlay, president of the National Farmers' Union in England and Wales, said that the British cattle industry faced "a very uncertain future". He backed the Scottish demand for retaliation if the French and West German bans were maintained.

In Brussels, amid reports that other EC member states were also moving to curb or ban British beef, the European Commission announced that an emergency meeting of EC

Continued on page 16, col 6

Xenophobic rhetoric, page 4

## Soldiers shot at station

BY A STAFF REPORTER

THREE British soldiers were shot at Lichfield city railway station in Staffordshire last night, the Ministry of Defence said. One was said to be in a serious condition.

A British Rail spokesman said the three were waiting for a train when a single attacker with a shotgun opened fire. They were taken to the Good Hope District General Hospital, Sutton Coldfield. Police later used a helicopter in a search for three people in connection with the shooting.

The attack comes after the attack last Sunday at Roermond in The Netherlands, where two young Australian London-based lawyers on holiday in the border town were killed by IRA gunmen in mistake for soldiers.

Mr Gerry Adams, president of Sinn Féin, yesterday denounced the killing of the two Australians as "inexcusable and unjustifiable".

## £512m bid by Rank for Mecca

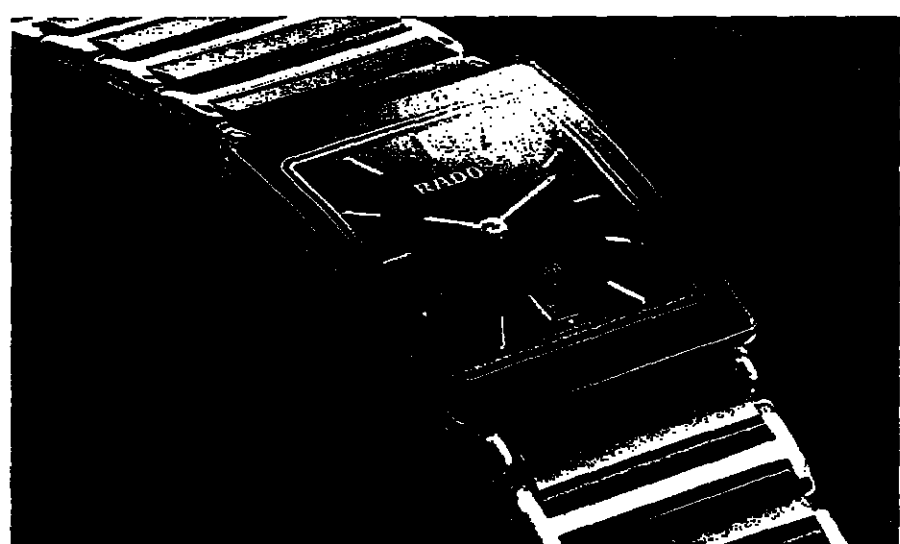
BY OUR CITY STAFF

RANK Organisation has launched a £512 million hostile takeover bid for its rival, Mecca Leisure Group. Rank's valuation compares with the £105 million price tag put on Mecca when it was re-floated in October, 1986, although since then Mecca has acquired the Pleasurama group for some £732 million.

The bid comes as no surprise. Rank has been interested in Mecca for years and this interest has been aroused again by the slump in Mecca's fortunes in the wake of spiralling debts.

Last month Rank was forced by the Stock Exchange to comment on rumours that it was planning to launch a bid which had sent the Mecca share price climbing.

Details, page 17



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# Council introduces 'austerity cuts' because of poll tax

By PETER DAVENPORT

COUNCIL leaders at Doncaster in South Yorkshire unveiled details yesterday of a two-year "austerity package" of financial cutbacks which, they said, were a direct result of the Government's poll tax measures. They are intended to save some £16 million over the next 20 months.

The measures are being introduced because the council faces a 20 per cent rise in poll tax charges next year, without increasing its overall spending, as the level of government safety net payments are automatically decreased. It said it could not pass on such an increase to its residents.

The Labour-controlled authority is also among 21 councils contesting a judicial review in the High Court next week, in the hope of overturning proposals to cap their poll tax charges. If they lose, further cutbacks will be introduced. Among the austerity measures are a £6 million cut in the education budget, £1 million from social services, £1 million from environmental services, £1 million in public

works and more than £2 million in central administration charges. Council officials said they had embarked on the cuts in advance of the 1991-92 financial year, in the hope of easing their impact by taking a long-term approach.

It was inevitable that services would suffer and jobs go although they were reluctant yesterday to put precise figures on any reductions in the authority's 15,500 employees.

Reductions could, it is hoped, be achieved by redeployment, natural and accelerated wastage, although local officials of the National Union of Teachers predicted that the moves could result in 300 fewer teachers in two years than the 3,000 the council employs now.

The council, which said that it employs 1,300 fewer people and spends 5 per cent less than the average metropolitan district, said it still has not been given a detailed explanation as to why the Government intends to cap its poll tax. Without an explanation, it said, planning for the next financial year to ensure that it

did not come in for capping again, was impossible.

The financial strategy announced yesterday will produce cuts worth £16 million over the next 20 months with £5.3 million falling in this financial year.

In next week's court case the authority is fighting the government plan to charge-cap it by £11.6 million, reducing the annual budget to £178.5 million. If it loses, the poll tax level of £334 will be reduced to £281 with each payer being entitled to a repayment of £53.

The council will then also have to find further savings of £6.3 million this year on top of the £5.3 million of cutbacks already outlined.

Among the measures drawn up to try to secure savings is a scheme of "needs assessment" — a form of means test in reverse and the first of its kind, according to Mr Gordon Gallimore, the council leader.

Under the proposal, people who have the automatic use of recreational facilities free of charge and social services at reduced costs will have their income assessed.



Miss Sasannah Ringel, from Baltimore, USA, was one of the first paying visitors yesterday to the grave of Karl Marx in Highgate Cemetery, north London, after a £1 charge was introduced. Until now visitors had been asked to make a contribution to the Friends of Highgate Cemetery, who run it as a charity, or

to pay a fixed charge for small cameras. Mrs Jean Pateman, chairman of the Friends, said: "We are not 'capitalizing' on Marx. Our income from voluntary donations may actually drop as a result of substituting the fixed charge. The measure is to protect grave owners who come to grieve."

## BA prepare for long dispute on 12-hour shifts

By HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH Airways was last night preparing for a long dispute with 7,000 striking engineers who are in dispute over a plan to introduce 12-hour shifts at Heathrow airport.

The engineers voted yesterday to continue the strike which began a week ago but has so far had little impact on services. About 400 men have defied the strike call and 500 senior management and supervisors are working with them to keep the fleet flying.

BA wants 12-hour working shifts and a reduction in the number of holidays while increasing the number of guaranteed weekends off. An identical system was introduced at Gatwick and is said to have resulted in improved efficiency.

When the system was imposed on 460 engineers at Terminal One at Heathrow last Friday shop stewards called a mass meeting, attended by about half of the 7,000 BA engineers employed at the airport, who decided to walk out in sympathy. This was confirmed at a second meeting yesterday and it was decided to call a ballot to make the dispute official.

The strikers claim that the impact will begin to be felt quickly as aircraft development faults. Management are convinced that by using senior staff to carry out work which they normally check they can maintain an almost full operation for several weeks.

Mr Roger Butler, engineering union divisional officer, said: "There is tremendous opposition to the 12-hour shifts as is indicated by the strength of feeling at this

meeting. An action of this kind takes time to affect operations and as every day passes more maintenance needs to be done."

A British Airways spokesman said that in discussions they had said they were prepared to move the imposition of the 12-hour shifts and operate them with volunteers, provided more than 50 per cent of the present staff did volunteer.

The union leaders are playing the "safety card" strongly by arguing that maintenance work cannot be carried out by fewer than 1,000 people to the same high standards as that undertaken by 7,000.

British Airways strongly deny the allegations, however, maintaining that not only is the work being done but because it is being carried out by senior staff it may even be of a higher standard.

## More peers to speak on war Bill

SIX former Cabinet ministers have added their names to the list of peers speaking in Monday's crucial Lords debate to decide the fate of the War Crimes Bill (Sheila Gunn writes). They include Lord Callaghan of Cardiff, the former Prime Minister, and Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone, who are opposed to the legislation, and Lord Carrington and Lord Pym.

With 68 peers down to speak, the overwhelming majority still appears to be deeply hostile to changing the law in order to mount Nazi war crimes in Britain so long after the Second World War.

In spite of the free vote, the Government and Labour front benches have been told they can abstain but must not vote for Lord Campbell of Alloway's amendment, which would kill off the legislation for this session.

## Cup returned

The Rugby League World Cup, stolen in 1970 and found recently by Mr Stephen Urtley, of Bradford, is back with the league after a short ceremony involving Roger Millward, captain of the last British side to compete for it. Mr Urtley is to be given tickets for the 1995 competition.

## Strike stopped

A High Court order yesterday stopped industrial action by more than 700 civil servant union members at Companies House, Cardiff, by serving leaders with an injunction. They were protesting at an application to set up a limited company, National Front Printers Ltd.

## Bounty hunters

The six parking wardens working in Peterborough's car parks are to be offered bonuses to catch more offending motorists. The city has installed a computer to chase drivers who ignore parking tickets and sees the "bounty" scheme as a way of boosting council income.

## Wall funeral

The comedian Max Wall, who died last week aged 82, was buried at Highgate cemetery, north London, yesterday after a quiet family funeral attended by fewer than 50 people. A memorial service will be held later.

Football, page 48

NUMBER X. OF SWEET FAREWELLS (AND SWEETER BEGINNINGS).

# GLENMORANGIE

10 YEARS OLD

## SINGLE HIGHLAND MALT

SCOTCH WHISKY

John Murray is a Seasoned Observer of the effects of Time and Change upon the Men, and upon the whisky which his *skill* helps to coax from Ross-shire Barley and Spring Water; (to John falls the duty of WELCOMING in the new Distillation\*). Over the years he must occasionally ACCOMMODATE a significant

newcomer at the Distillery, in the elegant *swan-necked* shape of the New Still. The replacement\* of these Distillery work-horses involves John in a ritual known as 'Sweetening The Still'. This sends him away up the



Morangie Hill, armed with an old 'mash' sack which he fills with a *quantity* of peat, heather and herbs\*. By boiling this fragrant concoction John can speedily exorcise any rawness in the new copper and so ease the newcomer into

its Role of sweetening the existence of Malt lovers EVERYWHERE.

A. AS DISTILLERY PHOTOGRAPHER JOHN MURRAY, AT ALL ESTABLISHED CEREMONIES - EMOTIONAL EVENTS, GIVEN THAT THE MEN SPEND ON AVERAGE SIXTEEN YEARS LEARNING AND PRACTISING THEIR CRAFT.

B. AS STILLMAN, HE MUST JUDGE PRECISELY WHEN THE STILL HAS ACQUIRED THE CHARACTER AND CLARITY OF NEW MALT; THEN HE WILL THEN DISPATCH TO THE CASK.

C. REPLACING A STILL IS A PARTICULARLY DISRUPTIVE EVENT AT GLENMORANGIE, AS IT INVOLVES THE PAISING OF THE STILL-HOUSE ROADS. BUT THEN THE DISTILLERY DOES INSIST UPON THE HIGHEST STANDARDS IN SCOTLAND - ENSURING THAT ONLY THE FINEST VAPOURS ARELED TO CONDENSE INTO THE MELLOW MALT OF TAIN.

D. SWEETENING THE STILL OCCURS DURING 'THE SILVER SEASON' - AUGUST - WHEN PEAT AND HEATHER ARE, ESPECIALLY, 'BLOOMING.'

\*HANDCRAFTED by the SIXTEEN MEN of TAIN.



# Woman horse rider wins appeal against speeding conviction

By RUTH GLEDHILL

A WOMAN found guilty of speeding on her horse through Richmond Park in south-west London won her appeal against conviction after a courtroom debate about the pace of a canter.

Judge Baker ruled at Kingston Crown Court that the Crown had failed to prove its case and called for the Secretary of State for the Environment to clear up the confusion over the meaning of the "archaic" term hand canter, which forms part of park regulations and was in the original summons against Miss Constance Srafield.

The debate stretched from references to the canter in the works of Chaucer to the modern-day expert opinion of a Metropolitan mounted police instructor.

Miss Srafield, aged 42, of Bury Walk, Chelsea, had been fined £50 by Richmond magistrates in February for willfully riding a horse at a pace greater than a hand canter at a 300 yard stretch, including the steep Broomfield Hill, in Richmond Park. She said yesterday the verdict was against the weight of evidence.

Mr Richard Crabtree, for the prosecution said a hand canter was sedate, collected and a "modest gait". He said Miss Srafield was certainly going at a pace greater than a hand canter.

PC David Willson said he had seen Miss Srafield riding in the park. As a former mounted police officer, he considered himself conversant with the gait of a horse. "The canter is a pace of three times," he said. "It is the next gait up from the trot. It is a slow,

leisurely pace. The gallop is the fastest pace at which a horse can go."

He had followed Miss Srafield on his motorcycle from about 60 yards away from the riding track. He saw "the rider leaning across the horse's forehead urging the horse on. The horse was in full gallop. The gait of the horse was such that at regular point, all four feet were off the ground."

A statement of fact, compiled from evidence supplied by PC Willson, alleged that Miss Srafield had ridden her horse at a full gallop, at just under 30mph.

Mr Charles Harris, a fellow of the British Institute of the Horse and the British Horse Society and a guest instructor of the Metropolitan Mounted Police, said that he had been determined to see Miss Srafield's horse after looking at the statement of fact, which convinced him he must be a "miracle" horse. Even horses running in next week's Derby could expect to achieve speeds of only 30mph, he said.

After examining Patrick, the horse, and watching him tackle the hill, he concluded it would have been "physically impossible" for him to gallop up it. Patrick, a 15.2 hand high, brown bay cob is "rather square" he said. "He is like a chair with four legs set on a square, instead of being elongated like a thoroughbred. Horses like this tend to run in locomotion." This meant it was particularly difficult to judge his gait.

Only someone of experience could be sure whether he was moving at a canter or a gallop,

particularly up a hill. It would be impossible to judge his gait from a moving motorcycle some distance away.

Even had the Richmond Park track been level, the horse would have been unable to stretch himself out in a gallop because the track was so badly maintained, Mr Harris said. In perfect going, he estimated that Patrick could gallop at about 18mph.

Mr Kevin de Haan, for Miss Srafield, said Patrick was not a racehorse or hunter. "It would be impossible for a horse like that to maintain a full gallop up that slope. The horse would be dead by the time it got to the top."

Miss Srafield said her 14-year-old horse could not do more than 6mph "at a scramble" up the hill. She criticized the way the officer approached her. "Mr Willson was rather abusive. He shouted at me and screamed at me, that I had been galloping and that I was riding in a manner likely to endanger someone."

Judge Baker said the bench agreed that the case against Miss Srafield had not been proved, but he warned riders in all parks to ride at a moderate pace. "This case is not a charter for riders to do what they wish." He urged the Secretary of State for the Environment to re-examine the "ancient and archaic" wording on notices in the park, "in particular, the description of hand canter."

Earlier, the judge interjected his own experience with regard to canter: a canter is the speed that the pilgrims proceeded at on their way to Canterbury. Going by the tales of Chaucer, they spent a lot of time before they got to Canterbury. They must have been going slowly.

After the case Miss Srafield said she was planning a horseback protest to Parliament against park regulations. She said that since the case in February, she had been "followed, chased, watched and nagged" by police while riding in the park. She was told to pay her own costs, which she estimated could reach £1,000.

## Equine record breakers

THE fastest speed recorded for a horse was in 1988 at Haydock Park when Kluge, running alone over half a furlong (110 yards) averaged 44.91mph. The horse was, however, later soundly beaten in his only race. The two fastest Derby winners, Mahmoud in 1936 and Kahyasi in 1988, covered the 1½ miles at Epsom in 2 min 33.80 sec and 2 min 33.84 sec respectively, to achieve average speeds of 35.1 mph.

Horses have not notably improved their performance over recent decades. While humans are breaking records regularly, horses' performances have remained consistent, with improvements being measured in fractions of seconds.

## Maguire case tests 'could be misleading'

CRUCIAL scientific tests used to convict the Maguire family could have been misleading, a forensic expert told the judicial inquiry yesterday. Mr Howard Yallop, a scientist, said tests on a cigarette filter and pipe tobacco had produced similar results to the explosive, nitro-glycerine. Mr Yallop was giving evidence on the ninth day of an inquiry headed by Sir John May into the conviction of Mrs Annie Maguire and six relatives and friends for running an IRA bomb factory in 1976.

Mrs Maguire, now aged 54, her sons, Patrick, aged 29, and Vincent, aged 31, her brother, Sean Smyth, aged 52, her husband, Patrick, aged 57, his brother-in-law, Guiseppi Conlon (now dead) and Patrick O'Neill, aged 49, a family friend, were sentenced to between five and 14 years on the basis of forensic evidence which showed they had traces of nitro-glycerine on their hands.

Yesterday, Mr Yallop told Mr Anthony Arlidge, QC, counsel for the Maguires, that sound scientific practice should have demanded follow-up tests. The evidence used to convict the Maguires came from a Government scientist, Mr David Wyndham, who was 18 years old at the time he made the tests.

Mr Yallop said his own experiments on a packet of pipe tobacco and Players No 6 cigarettes cast doubt on the validity of Mr Wyndham's findings. "It demonstrated that one single test was not sufficient for certainty," he said. The tests on the cigarette filter suggested there was at least one other substance likely to produce similar results to nitro-glycerine.

Mr Yallop said he had carried out his own tests impartially and with an open mind. He had once firmly believed in the efficacy of the Thin Layer Chromatography (TLC) test which was used to show traces of nitro-glycerine on the hands of the Maguires and on rubber gloves used by Mrs Maguire. His own experience had cast doubt on this.

He said: "I had regarded TLC as having its own built-in confirmatory process but I came to the conclusion that it was not really sufficient if one was going to give a definitive answer." As soon as one substance could be confused with another "the bubble was pricked" and there was no confirmatory test.

## Opera house plans could transform Edinburgh Festival

By SIMON TAIT, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

A PROPOSAL for an £8 million, 2,000-seat opera house could transform the Edinburgh Festival to a year-round event. Next week the city's recreation committee is to present the scheme, devised by Mr Frank Dunlop, the festival director, to the ruling Labour group.

"If it goes through, it will mean that the biggest opera and ballet companies, who haven't been able to find a venue north of Manchester until now, can come to Scotland," said Mr Dunlop, who has been working on the plan for two years. "We already have enormous interest from the Scottish National Opera and Scottish National Ballet."

The scheme would involve the city buying the Empire Theatre, and the formation of a trust by the festival, the local authorities and tourist board and the Scottish Development Agency, to raise £8 million to convert the theatre.

Front-of-house facilities would be built on to the stage of the building and the stage would be built out between 70th and 80th, giving it the same dimensional status as the Royal Opera House and the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane, London.

"It will mean the festival having a headquarters, which will make us feel a bit more like arts administrators than bureaucrats, and give us a festival opera house all the year round," Mr Dunlop said. "The three-week festival in August would then be a climax to a festival year."

The lack of a suitable lyric theatre has always been an embarrassment to the festival, and plans to make the Playhouse Theatre into an opera house founded in 1987 because structural problems became insurmountable. Edinburgh district council, Lothian regional council and Edinburgh University own land behind the Empire.

Mr Dunlop said that because architectural and engineering surveys had already been done and plans were well advanced, the new opera house could be open before the 1991 festival.

The lack of full-size opera has been an oft-quoted flaw in the festival. This year the Bolshoi Opera is to perform at the Playhouse, presenting one of its smaller productions. "Luckily, it's also a very exciting one, but with the new opera house we could put on anything they had to offer," Mr Dunlop said.

Mr Peter Watson, a spokesman for the Bus and Coach Council, said the regulations would affect all passengers on coaches and buses. "They are not intended to cover frivolous complaints. But there are no guidelines, and it is really up to the commonsense of the official as to whether the noise is anti-social."

## Buses curb the irritating hiss of 'personal' music

By TOM GILES

BUS passengers will no longer have to suffer in silence while being deafened by ghetto blasters or irritated by the tinny hiss of personal stereos.

National regulations brought into effect yesterday will prevent all stereos played on buses and coaches being used at a volume "likely to cause annoyance". Those made to endure such torment can now complain to their driver, conductor or inspector.

If the official agrees that the noise is annoying, or feels that it was likely to be so, the volume would have to be turned down or the machine switched off. If these instructions were to go unheeded, the official could summon

a police officer or take the bus to the nearest police station. Those who refuse to comply could be fined up to £400.

The legislation, brought before Parliament by the Department of Transport and passed on May 11, updates previous regulations on passenger conduct on bus and coaches, last drawn up in 1936. The previous strictures on noise levels, which forbade such antics as playing one's trumpet on board an omnibus, were considered outdated.

Mr Peter Watson, a spokesman for the Bus and Coach Council, said the regulations would affect all passengers on coaches and buses. "They are not intended to cover frivolous complaints. But there are no guidelines, and it is really up to the commonsense of the official as to whether the noise is anti-social."

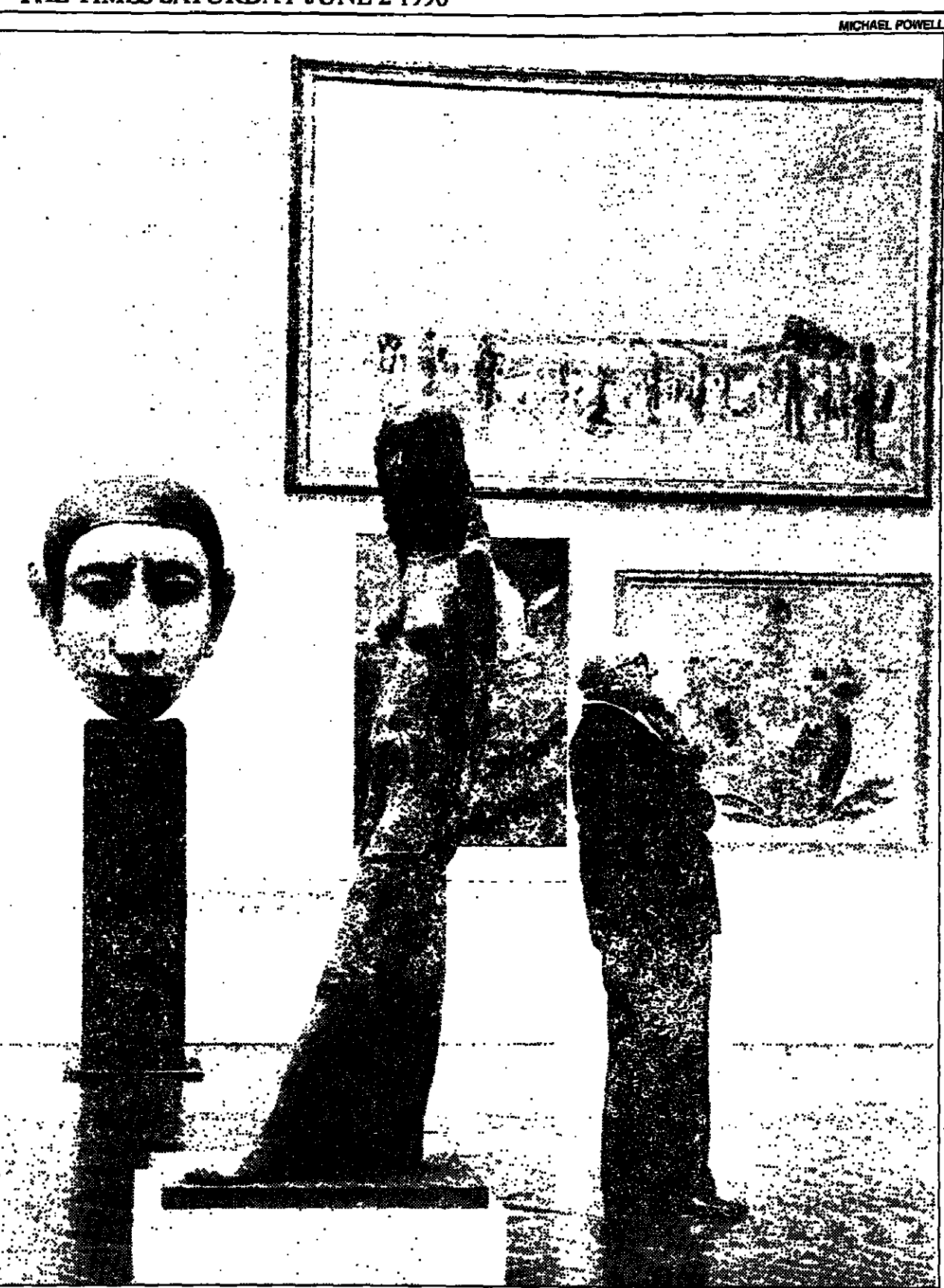
"One can be driven mad by people playing their stereos. I certainly have been at times. But, as long as they play it at a reasonable level, people will still have the right to turn their minds to jelly, listening to heavy metal and other such music."

The National Council for Civil Liberties, however, expressed concern over the enforcement of the new regulations. A spokeswoman said: "It seems very arbitrary, especially for something which can lead to such a heavy fine. How can inspectors really decide what is anti-social or what

isn't? This appears to be criminalizing behaviour which is simply anti-social, and that's quite dangerous when taken to extremes."

London Buses welcomed the rules. But a spokesman said that their passengers lodged fewer complaints over noise levels than those on the Underground or British Rail.

A Department of Transport spokesman said: "Obviously, noise levels had been seen as a problem, but we are not able to enforce the same regulations on the tube or British Rail, as it is up to these bodies to apply their own rules." The new regulations also permit bus drivers to use microphones for passenger announcements for the first time.



Mr Sydney Mason, who has a painting in the Royal Academy Summer Exhibition opening next week, having a preview yesterday as works were hung

## RUC condemns Shoot To Kill TV documentary

A TELEVISION drama documentary on an alleged shoot-to-kill policy in Ulster was condemned yesterday by the Royal Ulster Constabulary.

The RUC claimed that Yorkshire Television's *Shoot To Kill* programme was a flawed and offensive production and "unjustifiably damaging" to the force.

The four-hour documentary is due to be broadcast on Sunday and Monday. Ulster Television, however, have shelved plans to show it because of fears it could be in contempt of court.

Sir John Hermon, a former Chief Constable of the RUC, said parts of the £2 million drama were false and inaccurate. The production team, however, insisted it was fair.

The programme is based on the RUC killings of six unarmed men, five of them terrorists, in County Armagh, Northern Ireland, in the winter of 1982. The RUC has claimed the title was "innocent, unjustified and offensive" because nobody,

including Mr John Stalker, had found any evidence of a shoot-to-kill policy in Northern Ireland. It said the programme should not be seen as representing a factual account of events in Co Armagh and the subsequent investigations.

A statement from the RUC said: "On the basis of what the RUC has previewed, and of reports in the news media, there are inaccuracies, distortions and misrepresentations. The RUC, therefore, takes strong exception to a broadcast which is unjustifiably damaging to the force."

Claims that the lives of three police officers were sacrificed in order to protect an informant also outraged the force. The statement said: "This is a lie and a despicable one at that. Two hundred and sixty eight men and women of the RUC have been murdered in Northern Ireland whilst doing their duty in defence of the community. There is a solemn obligation on the part

of the RUC to do all in its power to safeguard its members, and any inference to the contrary is deeply resented."

The force criticized former Det Chief Superintendent John Thorburn, who was chief adviser for the programme and number two in the Stalker investigation team. The statement said: "It is a matter of the utmost concern that any former senior investigating officer, who in that capacity was given access to highly confidential material involving the security of Northern Ireland, should subsequently act as an adviser for the purpose of television entertainment."

The RUC said it turned down a request to take part in a studio discussion at the end of Monday night's final episode, because "it refuses to give any credence or legitimacy to a flawed and offensive production".

No carte blanche, page 10

## Labour environment pledge

By ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

THE Labour party yesterday promised to abandon ideology in the interests of the environment. Mr Bryan Gould, the environment spokesman, said at a conference in London.

At the meeting organized by the Association of Metropolitan Authorities, he said that Labour was ready to look at all kinds of market solutions, as well as the interventionist weapons of prohibition and regulation. These would include green taxes, the price mechanism and a range of measures designed to "internalize" environmental costs which the free market otherwise passed on to others.

He said: "The Labour party is ready to abandon ideology in the interests of doing whatever is required to protect the environment. No option will be rejected if it offers a practical means of reducing energy consumption and pollution." Mr Gould's words,

developing sentiments outlined in Labour's manifesto blueprint, will intensify competition for the green vote.

In his speech, he challenged ministers to show an equal lack of regard for ideology, urging them to forgo electricity privatization for the sake of greater energy efficiency



Mr Bryan Gould

and conservation and to institute a programme of flue gas desulfurization. Free market dogma alone, Mr Gould said, made the environment a certain loser.

Labour has been showing an increasing interest in green taxes in the form of product charges and tax differentiation, after a study by the Institute for Public Policy Research, the Labour-linked think tank.

Politicians in all parties have noted the success of tax differentiation in stimulating the use of lead-free petrol.

Practices in other countries are being studied for possible adoption. In Italy a tax on lubricants has been spent on the collection and disposal of used oil. In Finland there are high charges on non-returnable beverage containers. In Italy there is a charge of five times the manufacturing cost on plastic bags.

## Tories accused over dirty beaches

By SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL REPORTER

THE Thatcher administration have never objected to the European Commission about the bathing water directive signed by Labour in 1975, Lord Clinton-Davis, the former EC environment commissioner, said yesterday. But from the first, it had "tried to subvert it".

After an 11-year fight with ministers to bring British beaches up to EC standards, his patience and that of his successor, Signor Carlo Ripa di Meana, finally ran out, he said. "The British Government originally designated 27 beaches when France designated 1,400, Italy 1,100, and even landlocked Luxembourg 37 - yet Britain has the longest coastline in the EC."

The wording of the directive was a little imprecise, he said, so the commission's legal experts were not too happy about launching prosecutions. "We were much more concerned about the Government putting bathing waters into a sufficient state of high quality so that people going to the seaside would be safe."

The second reason the commission took rather a long time (to prosecute Britain) is that it is not the aim of the EC to bring governments to book before the European Court of Justice. The court has no sanctions, there is only the shame and public attention. Consequently, the EC tried to do its very best to get a government to conform without going to court."

As the commission has no inspectors, it relies on complaints from individuals, "green" lobbyists and local authorities about dirty beaches. It also relies on governments to translate the directives properly into domestic laws.

"The Government says it has a good record on this, but I fear that is markedly less true on environmental directives and, in particular, on the bathing and drinking water directives," Lord Clinton-Davis said. "What the Government has done is to brief the press behind the scenes that the standards are too stringent, but they did not officially seek to do anything about it. The proceedings are being taken by the present commissioner because my patience and his patience is exhausted."

Lord Clinton-Davis said he had been about to take action in 1988 when it was announced that Mrs Thatcher was going to dismiss him. Ministers, he said, would have accused him of an act of spite if he had started legal action in his remaining year in office.

Britain is not alone in facing prosecution in the European Court of Justice over its dirty beaches (Michael Binyon writes from Brussels).

As long ago as 1988 the European Commission decided to open cases against all member states except Portugal - and the Portuguese, one of the two newest EC members, were spared only because on accession they were given a transition period until 1993 in which to comply with clean water regulations.

Even Luxembourg, which has no coastline, is to be prosecuted, as the directive covers all waters where people swim and bathe, and several lakes and rivers in the Grand Duchy were found to be above acceptable levels of pollution.

Britain is not the worst offender on environmental issues in general in the Community. It faces prosecution on 31 of the 160 directives in force, compared to 40 in Italy, 41 in France, 45 in Greece, 46 in Belgium and 57 in Spain.

Leading article, page 11

## £4,400 for 'Bodyline' Test ball

By JOHN SHAW

THE ball that Eddie Paynter hit out of Brisbane cricket ground to win the "Bodyline" Test series and the Ashes in 1933 was sold for £4,400 at Christie's yesterday.

The ball was mounted on a plinth and was part of a collection of Paynter memorabilia sold by the son of the famous Lancashire and England cricketer.

It included photographs from the famous tour. Paynter was a heavy smoker and an engraved ashtray "from a grateful skipper" made £990. He played in three of the five matches and finished the series with a top batting average of 61.33. The suitcase which he carried on the tour banded with the MCC colours made £60.

The top price of the day was achieved by Lord Mountbatten of Burma's collection of more than 200 polo books which made £20,900 (estimate £10,000-£15,000) to David Mayou, a London dealer. Lord Mountbatten confessed himself to be "dippy about polo, which in my opinion is the best game in the world."

The sale was devoted to sporting memorabilia of every kind and set a new auction record for a single copy of *Wisden*. A first edition of the cricketers' almanac in its original paper covers from 1864 priced at 1s (5p) went for £4,400 (est £1,500-£3,000).

The previous highest was for two copies of *Wisden* bound together, which made £5,500. The sale made a total of £123,443, with 97 per cent sold.

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# Xenophobic rhetoric clouds issue of justification for beef bans



M. Nallet: Looking after French farmers

By MICHAEL HORNSBY  
AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

IN THE fog of xenophobia clouding the "beef war" rhetoric between Britain on one side and France and West Germany on the other, with other European Community states likely to be dragged in, it is easy to lose sight of the central question: is there any justification for banning British beef and cattle?

Mr John Gummer, the Minister of Agriculture, has condemned the bans as "illegal", but the legal position is far from clear. If France and West Germany were taken to the European Court of Justice, the case could take months to resolve. The Treaty of Rome provides for free movement of goods within the European Community but provides for curbs on imports to "protect the health of humans, animals or plants" so long as these do not act as "a disguised restriction on trade between member states".

Some international dispute about bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), a disease about which disturbingly little is known, is reasonable. If M. Henri Nallet, the French Agriculture Minister, were concerned about the health aspects, however, he could have acted when West Germany did last October. The West Germans, who initially said they would accept only beef certified to come from herds free of BSE, had a case because at that time Britain had not put in place all the measures since taken to prevent BSE-infected meat entering the food chain. Bonn did not rescind its import curbs, merely modifying them to keep out beef on the bone, on the argument that the marrow might be infected.

Given the small amount of trade initially involved, Britain and Brussels appeared to turn a blind eye to the West German action. That could weaken their position if they wish to pursue legal action now that Bonn has made its ban total. If all necessary measures had been taken to protect the consumer, then

Bonn's restraints were no less illegal when they were partial.

At the beginning of last year, Britain was a party to an EC ban on the import of hormone-treated beef from the United States, even though the Community's own scientists said that such action was not warranted on health grounds.

About £60 million of US beef exports to the Community are still blocked by the ban (pet food was exempted) and an equivalent volume of EC agricultural exports, including canned tomatoes and fruit juices, are subject to retaliatory 100 per cent tariffs with no solution of the dispute in sight.

"If we can block US beef exports because consumers do not like the idea of beef stuffed full of hormones, no matter what the scientists may say, then there is no reason why France or West Germany should not take action to protect their consumers," Dr Tim Lang, of the Parents for Safe Food pressure group, said yesterday.

That argument would carry more weight if there was any sign that French consumers are worried. In fact, all the pressure on the French government is coming from farmers worried by competition from British beef, which has been made cheaper by a recent devaluation of the "green pound", the special exchange rate used in EC agricultural trade.

The West Germans may have a marginally stronger case. There is no scrapie in the West German sheep flock and they maintain that their techniques for rendering animal waste, including sheep offal, into meat and bone meal use higher and safer temperatures than rendering plants in Britain. Scrapie-infected cattle feed is thought to have caused the BSE outbreak in Britain.

In the late 1970s and early 1980s, Britain itself used the health argument to ban imports of pasteurized and ultra-heat-treated milk from other EC states on the grounds that

their techniques were less safe than ours. The real motive, it was suspected, was fear that those imports might undercut prices on Britain's carefully managed milk market. Britain was successfully prosecuted and had to remove the bans.

Farmers whose beef sales have been hit by "mad cow" disease have been offered some little compensation by a Hong Kong company, which is prepared to pay £5.75 a gramme (£161 an ounce) for "good quality cattle gallstones", a price that compares not unfavourably with that of gold (£218 an oz).

The company, Alice Import-Export of Kowloon, has advertised in local newspapers in the West Country, and has circulated slaughterhouses. Mrs Josephine Poon, company import manager said: "We have a different concept of medicine in the East, where the gallstones are used for curing fever and improving blood pressure and circulation."



Mr Gummer: "Beef bans are illegal"

## Town halls 'should pass more money to schools'

By DAVID TYTLER, EDUCATION EDITOR

TOWN hall bureaucrats should release more money to allow schools to run their own affairs, Mr John MacGregor, Secretary of State for Education and Science, said yesterday.

He said: "I expect local authorities to act as quickly as possible to see that a larger proportion of funds is passed down to schools. I should look keenly at their performance in this respect."

Mr MacGregor said he hoped that the local management of schools would reduce the cost of town hall bureaucracy. "There will be increasing pressure on local authorities to reduce their central costs as financial statements are published," he said.

"Schools and parents will start doing the simple sums which show how much more money they will get in their budget if central costs were

reduced and the resources released passed down to schools."

Mr MacGregor told the 30,000-strong annual conference of the National Association of Head Teachers in Torquay that he would be looking very carefully at the amount of money local authorities held back to fund central services.

"I expect to see many local authorities being put under considerable pressure over the coming months by local people — governors and parents in particular — to explain why they are not passing a higher proportion of funds down to schools."

Mr MacGregor said he recognized that heads' powers of management were limited by the amount of money at their disposal. "There will always be a demand for more money. I do understand how frustrating it can be to feel that if only someone will give you more money, you could do so much more for our children. Of course, I understand that."

"But it has always been a fact of life that there is never enough money to do everything we would like to do in terms of public expenditure."

Mr MacGregor said that about 12 per cent of schools were now responsible for their day-to-day running. "Those who have been managing their own budgets regularly tell me about the advantages of added flexibility; quicker decision taking without constant reference back to town or county hall."

Mr MacGregor later responded to demands from many of the heads that the legally required tests for pupils aged seven should be delayed, so that the pilot test in 640 schools could be properly evaluated and to give time for wide consultation with the teaching profession.

Heads at the conference were unhappy when Mr MacGregor said he was determined to stick to his timetable for full testing in mathematics, science and English next year and to publish results, to be made available in 1992.

"We will be looking carefully at the results of the pilots before we decide what form the tests will take. There is time to work them through," he said.

He was applauded occasionally during his speech, but his speech was interrupted when he talked of pressures on business people with management responsibilities.

"These are people who also work very long days, who also have serious and difficult responsibilities," he said.

## Handwriting studies raise ethics question

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

YOUR handwriting could cost you a job, because it discloses too much about you. Firms recruiting new staff are increasingly calling in experts to weed out those whose character, as revealed in their writing, marks them out as unsuitable.

"Please apply in own handwriting" is appearing increasingly in job advertisements. This usually means it will be studied by a graphologist," according to a report in the *Law Society Gazette*.

"Occupational graphologists claim that a person's writing contains more than 300 individual characteristics which can provide information about virtually every facet of his personality and mental ability," it said.

"Armed with a letter containing 15 lines of handwriting, together with information about a person's age

and sex, they test for honesty, integrity, leadership qualities and loyalty as well as personality, aptitude, intelligence and creativity."

They also claim to be able to tell whether an applicant is having difficulties in his personal life and if he or she shows signs of a drink or drugs problem. According to European law, when a letter is sent to a prospective employer it becomes his property and she or he can have it analysed without the writer's consent, the report points out.

The article adds, however: "While graphology may be legally above board, ethically it may raise a number of questions." The society's professional ethics department has no policy on whether firms should use it in recruitment, but believes as a matter of courtesy the applicant's consent should be obtained."



A microlight aircraft piloted by Mr Ian Hawes searching waterways and reed beds while carrying out a census of mute swans in Norfolk and Cambridgeshire, commissioned by the Nature Conservancy Council. The Wildlife and Wetlands Trust, which helped to organize the survey, said: "The planes were able to survey areas that would have been difficult to reach in any other way. The swans are easy to spot and

counting them from above made the job easy" (Ronald Faux writes). First indications are that the population of mute swans, the only swans that remain in Britain all the year, is increasing after a disastrous decline. More than 3,000 of the birds were thought to be dying each year from lead poisoning after swallowing fishing weights. Lead weights were banned in 1987.

The Trust said: "We have indications

that mute swan numbers are now at healthier levels but there could still be 'hot spots' of higher losses in waters that are very densely fished." The last census in 1983 showed there were 3,150 pairs and 12,600 single birds in Britain. The loss of up to 4,000 mute swans a year was judged a serious disaster. Some conservationists believe the losses by lead poisoning may have been greater.

## Scientists clash over atom hazard

By NICK NUTTALL, TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

MANKIND has been labouring under a misconception about the environmental risks of nuclear power waste, a technologist with the Atomic Energy Authority has discovered.

According to Dr Nigel Holloway, a senior consultant at the authority's Technology Safety and Reliability at Culcheth, Cheshire, it is far more environmentally friendly to burn uranium in reactors than leaving the uranium ore in the ground. Indeed the ore should not be viewed as natural but should be seen as cosmological nuclear "waste" formed from the explosions of stars billions of years ago.

Burning nature's waste to create man-made waste not only utilizes a useful fuel to generate electricity but cuts the amount of radiation in the environment too, Dr Holloway has calculated. His conclusions are based on calculations in which he has compared the effects of splitting 1,000 atoms of uranium 235 in a reactor or leaving 1,000 atoms to decay naturally. After three months 2,000 waste atoms were produced in the power plant of which only 300 were radioactive and 100 were slightly radioactive, he said. "The remaining 1,500 are not radioactive at all," he pointed out as one piece in the proof that nuclear fission is environmentally sound. Dr Holloway's conclusions are published in the latest issue of the nuclear industry magazine, *Atom*. Waste from nuclear fission is easily much more radioactive initially but after 500 years is no longer hazardous to living things, the

scientist claims. Indeed over millions of years "fission products contribute very much less radioactivity to the environment than does the equivalent uranium" — a feature he describes as "surprising in view of the popular belief that nuclear power is filling the environment with radioactivity."

Last night Mr John Large, an independent nuclear expert, dismissed Dr Holloway's claims as bunkum and laughable. "His calculations appear to be based on the idea that we

all have a pound of uranium sitting on our living room table and a pound of nuclear waste buried down a deep hole."

Mr Large said that the calculations also appeared to ignore the way in which the initial products of fission in turn produce daughter products which are radioactive. In suggesting that after 500 years nuclear waste is less threatening to living things than natural uranium, Dr Holloway refers to the "biologically effective power" of the materials.

Mr Large said the AEA scientist had apparently taken no account of the toxicity of man-made waste nor the way it moves through the environment.

Mr Large's views were echoed by Dr Keith Barnham, lecturer in physics at Imperial College, London. He said that most natural uranium was well out of reach of human-kind and as a consequence attempting to compare power station waste with naturally occurring radiation was flawed.

He said a recent study indicated that 50 per cent of people over the age of 50 had antibodies in their blood serum showing they had been infected by toxoplasma.

The latest studies of the geographical distribution of heart disease were pointing to reasons why a proper balance of green vegetables and fruit in the diet conferred protection against heart disease, according to Dr M. Oliver, of the Wynn Institute for Metabolic Research in London. He described studies indicating benefits of a diet with a

satisfactory level of vitamin C, vitamin E and beta-carotene among the essential nutrients in food.

He suggested that those particular substances, which are oxidizing agents or known as antioxidants, possibly neutralized the most toxic forms of the cholesterol which blocks arteries in heart disease. He speculated that the same antioxidant properties which can be ascribed to traces of copper in the grape of red wines might explain the baffling difference between the incidence of heart disease in France and Britain. It is much lower in France.

## Shellfish warning welcomed

By ALISON CAMERON

THE fish industry said yesterday that warnings not to eat shellfish caught off the north-east coast between the Humber and Montrose will not damage long-term sales as much as cases of illness would have done.

Mr John Moore, of the Sea Fish Industry Authority, which is funded by the industry, said: "By taking the action that the Government has, it will have prevented any incidences of illness, which would be far more damaging than a warning covering a few days." He said that if the warning lasted for a week to 10 days, as the Government has predicted, then there would be no need to increase imports.

Late yesterday the warning on lobsters, shrimps and prawns from the north-east coast was withdrawn, but the warning on eating crabs, mussels, winkles, whelks, oysters and scallops remains.

Mr Moore said that most shellfish comes from other areas. The biggest crab fisheries are in south-west England and a lot of mussels come from north Scotland. The most direct effect of the warning, Mr Moore said, was to show that the monitoring system was working. The Government has had the system in position since 1968, when 78 people fell ill after eating mussels caught off the north-east coast.

Dr Eric Edwards, of the Shellfish Association of Great Britain, said that the toxin comes from naturally occurring algal bloom, which regularly appears in May and dies after about a week. Warm weather this year has increased its occurrence. The toxin, which can cause paralytic shellfish poisoning, was found in mussels caught off the Tyneside coast at the end of last week.

## Demolished Palladian mansion may be rebuilt

By CHRISTOPHER WARMAN  
PROPERTY CORRESPONDENT

AN ATTEMPT is to be made to reconstruct a 19th-century Palladian mansion near Blandford Forum, Dorset, demolished in 1950 shortly before it was due to be listed as a building of architectural importance.

Clarendon House Ltd, of Winchester, the developers behind the scheme, have applied to North Dorset District Council for permission to rebuild Langton House. No policy appears to have been drawn up to allow for the reconstruction of such a building. The company has pointed out, however, that when the structure plan for Dorset was drawn up in 1947 there was no anticipation of such an approach to save Britain's architectural heritage.

At present, development is allowed only for forestry and agricultural tied dwellings in



Langton House, Dorset: Knocked down in 1950, shortly before it was to be listed

open countryside. This is now being challenged by Mr Peter Thompson, an architectural consultant who has drawn up plans for the reconstruction of the mansion.

Langton House was pulled down by its then owners 40 years ago because listing

would have obliged them to make expensive repairs to damage caused by US troops billeted there in the last war. The materials from the house were sold to repair other houses that had suffered war damage, and the outbuildings left standing were listed. The

mansion, which dates back to 1830, was designed by C R Cockerell (1788-1863), one of the leading neo-classical architects.

During the war it became the headquarters for the First United States Infantry Division in 1943, and was

visited by Field-Marshal Montgomery and General Eisenhower. The comedian Bob Hope also went there to entertain the troops. The division remained at Langton House until it left for Omaha Beach as part of the 1944 Normandy landings.

The present project, although costly, is possible because the interior of the new Langton House would be created as 12 apartments. The outbuildings which survived, including the stables, kitchen and brewhouse, are Grade II listed and have been converted for residential use, with the stable conversion entered for the Civic Trust awards.

If approved, the reconstruction would fit in with the existing buildings and complete the formal composition of the site. The new Langton House would have 25,000 square feet of floor space, as did the original building, and be built of Bath stone.



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# Brittan in vigilance pledge over car pricing

By KEVIN EASON, MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

SIR Leon Brittan yesterday warned car manufacturers that he would be vigilant in an investigation into why car prices in Britain are as much as a third higher than the rest of Europe.

Sir Leon, a vice-president of the European Commission, told a meeting of the London Chamber of Commerce he had ordered the investigation because of mounting concern that British motorists were being treated unfairly. The Monopolies and Mergers Commission was also carrying out an inquiry at the request of Sir Gordon Borrie, Director General of Fair Trading.

As Sir Leon spoke to the chamber, which met at Guildhall, London, new figures gathered by *The Times* showed that a Nissan Bluebird model built at Washington, Tyne and Wear, was as much as 21 per cent cheaper in West Germany. A Bluebird 2.0i GSX costs £10,434 in Britain, but a similar car in West

Germany would cost as little as £8,286, and £8,685 in The Netherlands.

Nissan, which set up its £650 million plant at Washington with the help of government grants thought to be as much as £100 million, had been selling aggressively in the UK, using price cuts of £1,000 on some Bluebirds to attract buyers at a time when the market was depressed by high interest rates. Figures compiled by *The Times*, however, show it may still be cheaper to shop abroad.

Cars competing with the Bluebird 2.0i GSX in British showrooms included the Ford Sierra GLS at £10,005, the Vauxhall Cavalier SRI at £10,278 and the Volkswagen Passat at £10,224. In Germany, those cars were cheaper, but did not show the same dramatic price differences as the Nissan model. The Ford sold at £9,440, the Cavalier (sold as the Opel Vectra on the Continent) at £9,437 and the Passat at £10,148.



## Vauxhall updates its image

BEDFORD, one of the best known names in the British motoring industry for 60 years, is to disappear (Kevin Eason writes).

Vauxhall, the UK arm of General Motors, announced yesterday it would bring all its vehicles under one redesigned Vauxhall brand in a multi-million pound move to update its image.

The familiar griffin badge, inherited by the car business from the original Vauxhall Iron Works founded in 1857, has been restyled (above) and will appear on all GM vehicles in this country. Dealers will also be told to give their showrooms a facelift to turn them into "retail centres" in grey-green livery.

Mr Peter Batchelor, head of sales and marketing, said: "We needed to sharpen and polish our corporate identity."

However, enthusiasts will mourn the passing of yet another famous name, as manufacturers streamline their corporate identities. In the past decade, marques such as Austin, Triumph and Hillman have disappeared. The Bedford name first appeared in 1931 on a range of trucks, which quickly became established with sales just as high as the neighbouring Vauxhall car division.

In seven years to 1938, Bedford sold more than 170,800 vans and lorries, compared with a car output of 148,500. However, the recession of the 1970s and the dramatic surge of imports took its toll of the business as it did other UK truck builders.

Sir Leon, who is overseeing fair competition throughout the 12 Common Market nations, has asked car manufacturers to explain the price differences. He said the move to a single market "must also provide benefits to the European citizen, improving choice and quality and encouraging technological progress in the consumer's interest."

"There is some concern that car buyers are being denied the advantages of the Common Market, because of the way in which the manufacturers are alleged to dictate resale conditions to their dealers and divide up the Community into discreet markets, according to the price which each national market will bear."

Sir Leon said an investigation was being carried out to see whether manufacturers were abusing special privileges enjoyed through exclusive dealership arrangements sanctioned by the commission some years ago, because of the special nature of the car industry.

Nissan Motor Manufacturing yesterday refused to comment on the wide differences in prices of its cars between Britain and West Germany, but said that it would co-operate fully with the inquiries. Nissan UK, the independent company which imports Nissans to Britain, said it acted only in this country and had no sales outlets or retail activities on the Continent.

Car pricing has been under the microscope because consumer groups discovered that manufacturers were apparently "milking" British customers by charging substantially more for the same cars. A report from the European Consumers' Union found cars were up to 30 per cent cheaper abroad.

Manufacturers claimed that that was caused by specification differences with British cars having higher levels of equipment than in any other European market. Sales in Britain were fuelled by company cars, which made up half of new car sales, and totalled about a million last year.

# Training for the Inca trail



Second Lieutenant Caroline Walters of the Territorial Army is training for her role as the only woman member of the Inca Trail Venture Group, a trekking expedition of 10 service personnel who aim to scale the four highest peaks in Bolivia. Lieutenant Walters, who is fluent in Spanish, is to act as the expedition's interpreter and has also been adopted as the team mascot.

Reed Publishing, on whose office building she is seen practising her abseiling, gave £50 toward the expedition's costs, and the TA unit with which she serves at her home in Sutton, Surrey, has awarded her an adventure training grant and will pay her for the five-week trip.



# £3.5m brain clinic to take its first patients

By KERRY GILL

BRITAIN'S first purpose-built rehabilitation unit for people with brain injuries is due to open next week in Scotland, it was announced yesterday. The privately run centre at Newmans, Strathclyde, will take up to 30 patients by next spring.

Most would be referred from National Health Service hospitals, where provision for dealing with brain-injured patients was considered inadequate. The £3.5 million unit has been designed to supply intensive treatment tailored to each patient's needs.

The aim is to allow re-entry to the community as quickly as possible. Mr David McNiven, clinical director of the unit, said the area of brain injury rehabilitation had been neglected within the NHS. "The acute care within the NHS is excellent, but there is no structured rehabilitation service whatsoever. It is our aim to provide a complete package under one roof."

Brain injury is 40 times more common than spinal damage, with more than 100,000 sufferers in Britain. Patients requiring rehabilitation range from people with traumatic brain injury after car accidents and assaults, to those who have suffered the disabling effects of a stroke and cerebral haemorrhage, tumours and brain infection.

The new unit will employ more than 50 people and provide specialized medical care from a team of neurosurgeons, psychiatrists, psychologists, orthopaedic surgeons and physicians. Senior academic staff from Glasgow University are associated with the venture and will work with the therapeutic team. The company providing the new centre is ScotCare, which owns a number of nursing homes in Scotland. Patients with physical problems would probably stay at the unit for a few weeks, while those suffering from severe behavioural disturbances could be there for up to 18 months, or longer. Treatment would cost £950 a week.

Mr McNiven said: "That is highly competitive in comparison to other similar private or NHS facilities. Just keeping such patients in care in National Health Service hospitals runs into four figures."

# SNP urges independent Scots steel industry

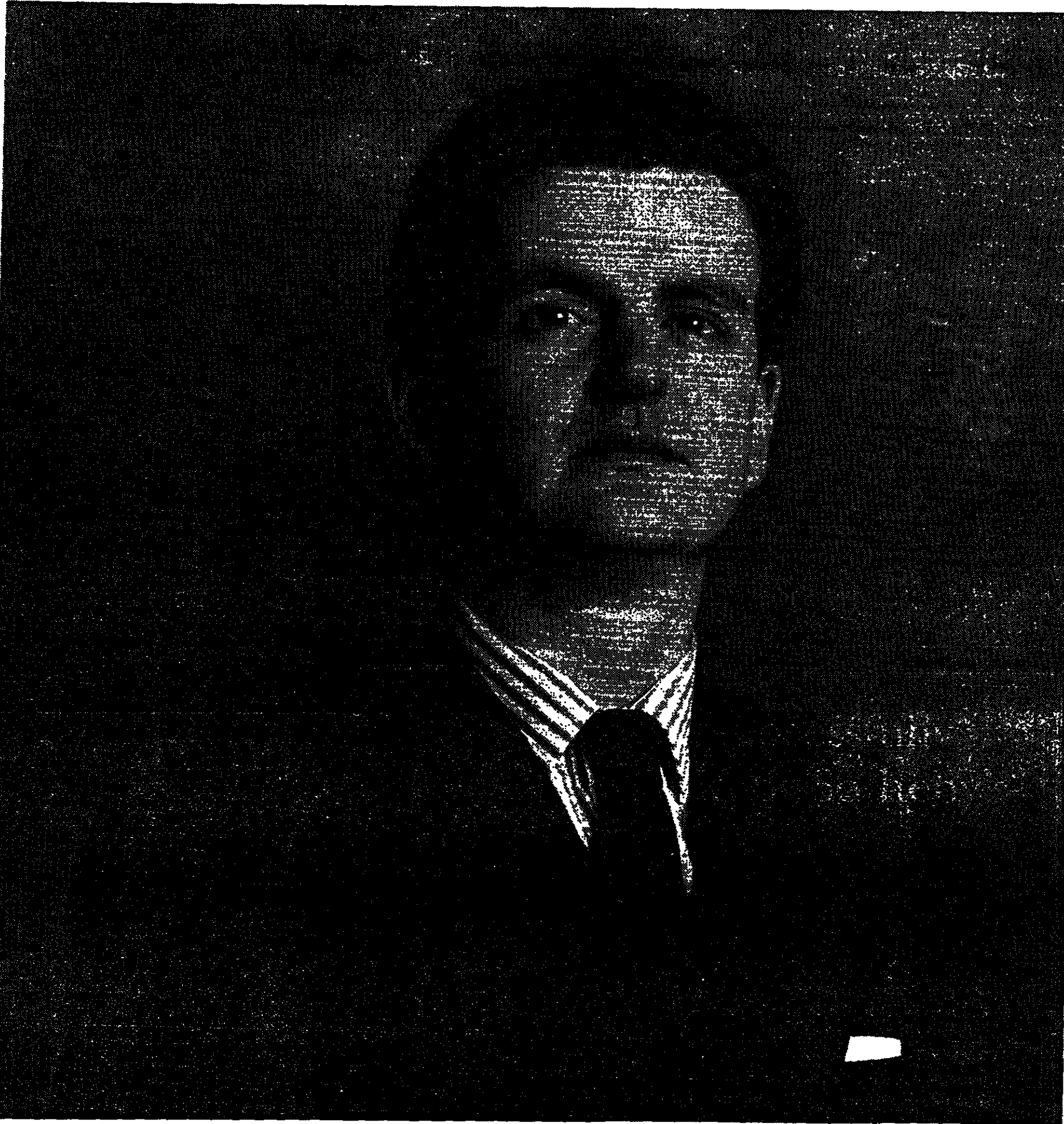
THE Scottish National Party called yesterday for the creation of an independent steel industry in Scotland (Kerry Gill writes). It said in a policy document that British Steel should be forced to put its Scottish operations on the market.

The SNP claimed that the Scottish plants should cost no more than £400 million on the open market. The party added, however, that given the lack of investment in Scottish steel since privatization the market value was likely to be only half that.

Mr Iain Lawson, the party's

spokesman on steel, said that if British Steel were not prepared to sell, the Government should step in. "They must now save Scottish steel by taking it back into public ownership, at least on a temporary basis," he said.

The policy document was published in the wake of British Steel's announcement last month that the strip mill at Ravenscraig, Lanarkshire, is to close next year with the loss of 770 jobs. All political parties fear that the shutdown could eventually lead to the loss of the entire Scottish steel industry.



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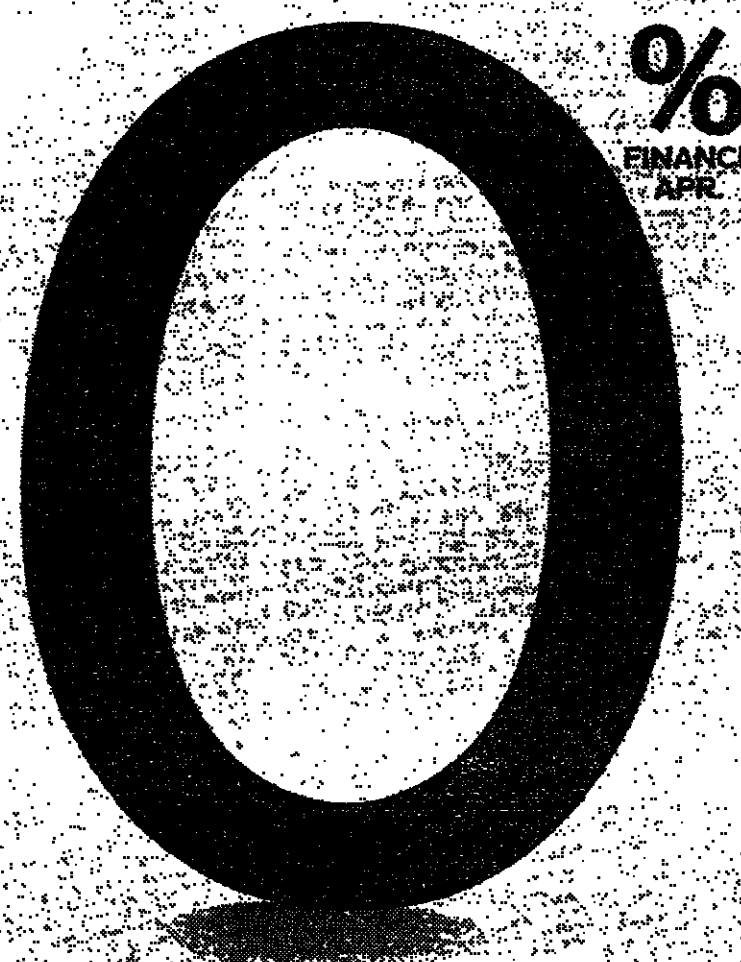
Needless to say, this costs money. That's why the RNIB Looking Glass Appeal has now been set up to help fund our schools, colleges, and all the other services we run to help Britain's one million blind

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## Tiananmen festivities mask security crackdown

FROM CATHERINE SAMPSON IN PEKING

THE four figures of Mr Li Peng, the Chinese Prime Minister, and Mr Jiang Zemin, the Secretary-General, donned caps and red scarves yesterday in an unsuccessful attempt to blend with a crowd of children and play out their parts in the farce unfolding on Tiananmen Square.

At the approach of Monday's anniversary of the Tiananmen Square massacre, the authorities were disguising heavy security as a celebration. International Children's Day was yesterday being used as an excuse by the regime to close off the square for the first two days of June.

By early afternoon the leaders had departed and the children had stopped dancing. Groups of sightseers asked why they could not go into the square. A giant panda, symbol of the Asian Games, had been erected. Three large balloons trailed banners hailing the immortality of the Communist Party.

On Children's Day last year, the press complained that since Mr Li had closed all the parks, children would have nowhere to celebrate their day. He had, it turned out, deprived the children of play-

grounds in order to fill them with soldiers who would pour out on the night of June 3.

On June 1 last year, the leaders wrote a letter to children referring to themselves as "Uncle Li Peng and Grandpa Deng Xiaoping". Two days later, these two men gave the order for soldiers to mow down young men, women and children.

Yesterday, a policeman watched the area from the top of the Bank of China and soldiers marched across the square from the Revolutionary History Museum, where they are encamped. Diplomats believe that troops have been stationed throughout the city ready to act at once should any protest break out. There are sightings of heavily armed soldiers being transported around the city, but in general the troops keep a low profile. Unlike the April anniversaries, police patrols have so far not resorted to carrying AK47s.

There were unofficial reports yesterday that Hou Dejian, the dissident pop star, had been detained by police after disappearing with two other dissidents the day before. The three had been planning to call for the release of all political prisoners.

All factories and offices in Peking have given their staff orders not to go out at night, and not to go to Tiananmen Square. Anyone who is out late has to explain why at roadblocks throughout the city. Given the security, no large-scale acts of defiance are expected.

One party document told party members to heighten vigilance, because since the beginning of April, there had been 200 acts of protest nationwide. "We were very happy when we read that," one man said.

But some residents of Peking are regarding Monday's anniversary with studied indifference. "I have no feelings about it," one man said.

But cracks appeared between the lines in the English-language *China Daily* yesterday. An article headlined "Qu Yuan - poet with the true spirit of patriotism", could not be mistaken for anything other than a clever attack on the country's leadership. In the age-old Chinese tradition of historical and artistic allegory, the article praised the poet for presenting "numerous examples of fine statesmanship versus misgovernment and tyranny".

## Guatemala rebels reach pact

Madrid - Guatemalan rebels yesterday reached agreement with nine political parties, aimed at ending 28 years of conflict in the Central American nation.

A joint statement released after five days of talks in a hotel outside Madrid said that the rebel Guatemalan National Revolutionary Union would join the parties in an assembly next year to revise Guatemala's constitution.

The political parties represented at the talks accepted the guerrillas' call that Guatemala's paramilitary Civil Self-Defence Patrols be disbanded and the armed forces subjected to increased political control. Although the guerrillas pledged not to disrupt Guatemala's general elections in November, a rebel spokesman said that this would not mean a ceasefire. (AP)

## Plot uncovered to kill Aquino

Manila - The military has uncovered a plot to assassinate President Aquino, and is hunting an American hitman, presidential security aides said yesterday.

Major Melgabal Villegas, a spokesman for the Presidential Security Group, named Mr Gary Ipa Rommell, from Los Angeles who, he claimed, had been hired to kill Mrs Aquino between May 15 and 20. He could not say who had hired the man. (AFP)

## Driver in bus tragedy asleep

Sydney - Australia's worst road disaster, a head-on bus collision that killed 35 people last December, occurred when one of the drivers fell asleep at the wheel, a coroner said.

Mr Kevin Waller, the New South Wales Coroner, based his verdict on the fact that Russell Wirth, who died in the crash, had not applied his brakes, and that an autopsy found traces of the stimulant ephedrine in his body. When its effect wears off, drowsiness may follow. Wirth's bus crossed to the wrong side of the Pacific Highway outside the town of Kempsey, and collided with a northbound bus, killing 35 people and injuring 40. (Reuters)

## Taiwan fetes celebrated kidnapper

FROM REUTERS IN TAIPEI

IN HIS first such public appearance, Mr Chang Hsueh-liang, who kidnapped Chiang Kai-shek, the Nationalist Chinese leader in China in 1936 and spent the next 54 years in seclusion, yesterday celebrated his ninetieth birthday in Taiwan.

Known as the "Young Marshal", Mr Chang spent at least 30 years under strict house arrest, but he looked distinguished and composed as he was feted yesterday by more than 200 officials from Taiwan's ruling Nationalist Party, including Mr Hau Pei-tsun, the new Premier, witnesses said.

Mr Chang kidnapped Chiang in Xian, north-west China, to force him to form an alliance with the Communists to fight the invading Japanese. The full story of what exactly happened between the two men has, however, never emerged.

## Opium War deflects massacre memories



Children in panda outfits celebrating Children's Day in Tiananmen Square yesterday, an occasion used as a pretext to close the square to the public

## China woos Third World as ties with West weaken

FROM CATHERINE SAMPSON IN PEKING

TO CHINA, accustomed to being the Middle Kingdom on the world map, the land to which foreigners have traditionally kowtowed, the past year has been a bit of a shock.

The Tiananmen Square massacre a year ago on Monday prompted Western condemnation and limited trade sanctions, but this did nothing to diminish traditional Chinese arrogance. The country's leaders believe the West cannot resist its lure, seeing President Bush's recent decision to renew China's most favoured nation trading status as proving as much.

But it is another factor which is shaking China's confidence in its international status. "What has happened in Eastern Europe has altered the focus of superpower thinking," a Western analyst said. "China is a sideshow - and it may not just be temporary." Although used to a role in a

US-Soviet-Chinese triangle, Peking is seen as increasingly irrelevant by the other two.

Relations with the US have been soured by the refugee taken by Mr Jiang Zemin, a leading dissident, in the US Embassy in Peking. Relations with the Soviet Union have been cool since the home of the revolution abandoned the true path of Marxism. Mr Li Peng, the Prime Minister, was embarrassed to encounter Soviet demonstrators against his part in the June 4 massacre when he visited Moscow.

Of necessity, China's response has been to turn to the Third World. It has spoken out against superpower politics and has cited American imperialism and interference because of the invasion of Panama. In the absence of senior Western visitors, Peking has welcomed a stream of Third World leaders.



Chinese leaders Mr Jiang Zemin, left, and Mr Li Peng celebrating Children's Day yesterday

lies, meanwhile, make it a laughing stock. With Romania gone, only North Korea really compares on ideological grounds.

When Mr Jiang Zemin, the Secretary-General, visited President Kim in Pyongyang, Chinese television viewers enjoyed an extravaganza of dancing Koreans welcoming him, and women kneeling at the feet of the two sunglasses-sporting leaders. Vietnam would be a potential friend, except that the two countries have not yet really stopped being enemies. Even Albania is taking its first steps towards reform.

China's international diminution has not occurred only in diplomatic relations. Peking also sees eager investors slipping away to Eastern Europe. Even before June 4 last year, investors in China had become frustrated by excessive bureaucracy and the country's expectation that foreigners would pay tribute to their Chinese counterparts by way of gifts and ridiculously generous contracts.

China has made much of its new trading agreements with the Soviet Union, and has described the two economies as complementary, but analysts describe this as "blatantly untrue".

Since June 4, the investment environment has become even worse as the economy has gone into recession and credits have been cut for all but the ideologically correct state-run enterprises. "There's nothing for me here now," a German businessman who had previously invested heavily in China said. "I just come to shake hands and maintain contact in case it gets better in the future."

FROM A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT IN PEKING

IN A gorgeous red-lacquered chamber of the outer imperial gatehouse on the approach to Tiananmen Square, school-children have been queuing all week to glimpse a show that features an evil-looking foreign devil with a big nose.

The man is identified as "Ba Mai Zuen", the wicked English statesman who sent his forces to war with China in 1839, after the Emperor baulked at accepting opium as payment from the East India Company for Chinese silk and tea.

Britons will remember Mr Ba Mai Zuen better as Lord Palmerston: the Chinese characters approximate to his name. The then foreign secretary's adventure ended in Chinese defeat and the seizure of Hong Kong under the first of the one-sided treaties forced on Peking in the 19th century.

The first Opium War may be an obscure Victorian sideshow to Britons, but there can be hardly a Chinese citizen who has escaped intimate acquaintance with the campaign.

Peking's embattled leaders came up with the war reminder as the best way of stirring patriotic, anti-foreigner feeling at a time when people might be tempted to reflect too much on the "turmoil" of last spring. They chose well, since there is little one can say these days in favour of a country that goes to war to force an adversary to buy drugs.

The official message is clear and simple - history is trying to repeat itself, and only communist vigilance will prevent it. As Mr Li Peng, the Premier and most reviled man in the city since June 4 last year, put it when he launched the campaign in March - remembering the opium wars would make China recall the "crimes of Western powers".

There is a double pay-off in the symbolism, since it reminds the world of Britain's record over Hong Kong, and by implication shifts the blame for China's growing drug problem on to foreigners. Despite the faulty arithmetic - the war ran from 1839 to 1842 - in all schools and universities, town halls and places of culture, teachers and officials have been instructed to mark the "150th anniversary" of the war as the main event in a month of patriotic education. The high point arrives tomorrow, the eve of the anniversary of the massacre, when the leaders are to appear at a ceremony in Tiananmen Square, which will be closed to the public.

The campaign is aimed at "making the students understand the plot hatched by the hostile powers of the West to turn our country into a bourgeois republic", said an education department official, describing the directive to commemorate the Opium War. This stated that students "will come to understand that, internationally, enemies are conspiring to make China evolve into a vassal state, and they will gradually establish an attitude of opposing peaceful evolution".

Those last two words are Peking's current code for the insidious conversion of the socialist states of Eastern Europe to Western ideas, the diplomats that the man was still alive, but provided no other details. The consulate said the man had been holding no slogans and had said nothing.

## Pretoria presses on with reforms

FROM AFP IN CAPE TOWN

PETTY apartheid's death knell was sounded yesterday when legislation to scrap the Separate Amenities Act was tabled in Parliament here. The 1953 Act, a cornerstone of apartheid, excludes black people from public amenities such as buses, parks, beaches, libraries and public lavatories.

The removal of what for 37 years has been the source of bitter racial friction gives additional substance to President de Klerk's reforms. The way was paved last November when all the country's beaches were opened to all races.

The Bill is likely to be passed by the middle of the month, with the only opposition coming from the far-right-wing Conservative Party, which does not, however, have enough MPs to block it. It is expected that the legislation will go into effect on October 15 to give local authorities time to arrange their affairs. The Bill seeks also to scrap racially discriminatory provisions in other Acts.

Although most big municipalities years ago scrapped petty apartheid of their own volition, Conservative Party-controlled councils, such as that at Boksburg, near Johannesburg, have used the Separate Amenities Act to implement rigid segregation. The party said last year the repeal of the Act would signal the beginning of the end of separate white community life and lead to increased swamping of whites by other races.

Other Conservative-dominated councils said they would rather close down municipal swimming pools than open them to all races, and promised to continue implementing racially discriminatory by-laws. But Mr James Lund, a constitutional lawyer, said that once the Act was scrapped all bylaws discriminating on the grounds of race would almost certainly become invalid. If a council tried to prosecute someone contravening such a bylaw, the courts would probably throw out the case, he added.

JOHANNESBURG: Gunmen early yesterday shot dead two black women and a child in politically motivated attacks at the Vosloorus township outside Boksburg, a local activist said. Police said they were not aware of the killings but were checking on the report.

Mr Keith Montitsi, publicity secretary of the Vosloorus Crisis Committee, said the wife and child of Mr Ali Maziya, the committee's chairman, were killed when gunmen opened fire at the family's home. Mrs Bella Motosi was killed when the same gunmen, travelling in three cars, fired at her home, Mr Montitsi said.

He said the killings were linked to a three-week boycott by blacks of businesses owned by black councillors regarded as puppets of the Government. (Reuters)

## Fire protest at consulate in Shanghai

FROM AFP IN PEKING

POLICE stepped up security around the US Consulate in Shanghai yesterday after an unidentified man with unknown motives set himself on fire at the mission's gate.

The man, in his 30s, was taken away in a police car after officers used fire extinguishers to put out the flames engulfing his petrol-soaked clothing. Chinese authorities told US diplomats that the man was still alive, but provided no other details. The consulate said the man had been holding no slogans and had said nothing.

## Expo dilemma tarnishes jewel of history

FROM RICHARD BASSETT IN VENICE

BEYOND the Accademia, where few tourists ever penetrate, the church of San Trovaso is closed. A sign there notes that owing to structural collapse the building, which houses the late Prince Clary's tomb, will be closed for five years.

Nearby, past a street of crumbling houses, a similar fate appears to be about to overtake Veronese's resting place at San Sebastiano. Here, an unconscious tramp lies sprawled in front of a main entrance. This is a different Venice to the popular view of a prosperous, glamorous museum packed with luxury hotels, and tourists happy to go along with the general intention that they should pay to the full for the privilege of being there.

The present controversy over the possibility of Venice being the venue for Expo 2000 is in many ways a battle between these two Venices: the one prosperous, the other impoverished, prosperous, You have been coming here for years, but what do you care about us who have no work, who are

forced out of our Venetian flats by foreigners prepared to pay double our rent," says a wry man painting boats near the Piazzale Roma. "You come here, but all you are interested in is how they make dry martinis in Harry's Bar. We need the Expo to create jobs. Venice cannot live just from tourism."

Signor Arrigo Cipriani, owner of Harry's Bar disagrees, though he insists that Venice must be revitalised. This, however, should be as a result of more Italian companies moving their headquarters to Venice.

He says: "I am Venetian. I have a particular sensibility. This city is unique. How can we stage an international event for millions of people, when we cannot solve our fundamental problems which are already forcing people to leave the city. Canals are not deep enough to take modern boats. These problems have to be solved before we can think of anything as fantastic as Expo."

The British who live in Venice, and whose names make up a roll of honour among international conservationists, support this view. Thanks

to the Venice in Peril Fund, which has restored to its ancient glory not just glamorous monuments in the centre of Venice but also the Church of San Nicolò de Mendicoff in the heart of Venice's poorest district, their views carry weight in all strata of Venetian society. Whether this alliance will be sufficient to counter the powerful pro-Expo interests remains to be seen.

The Italian foreign minister, Signor Gianni De Michelis, thought up the idea of siting Expo at Venice. If, on June 14, the International Bureau of Exhibitions in Paris fails to choose Venice after his intense lobbying, he will be deeply disgruntled.

"The majority of people in Venice want this exhibition," he said. "Venice must be helped. There will be 5,000 new jobs. The people who voted in local elections made it clear that they want this to take place."

On the small island of San Servolo, Professor Rolf-Dietrich Elbert, who has devoted his life to running the Council of Artisans from all over the world, shakes his head in amazement at the possibility of Expo, pointing to

the damage done by fans at the Pink Floyd concert last year.

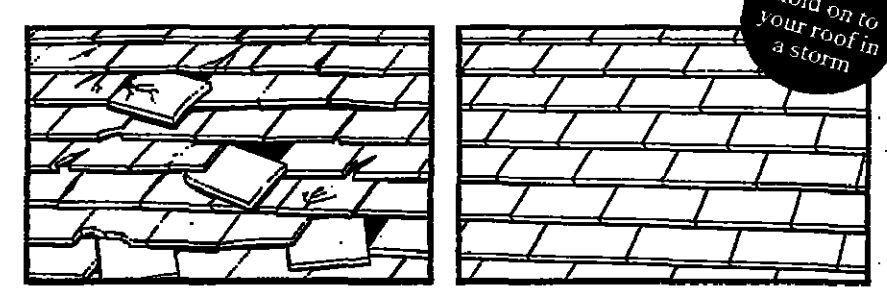
In front of the Danieli Hotel though, a middle-aged lady who commutes every morning from Mestre to her job in this flagship of the Italian hotel industry, says: "It was a wonderful thing for the young people."

It is worth pointing out that there is nothing new about this conflict between those who regard Venice as a unique jewel in Europe's heritage and those who see it as "just another city". Napoleon thought nothing of demolishing Renaissance churches here. Later, in 1843, the Austrians happily dragged the city into the 19th century by demolishing two convents, two churches, a palazzo and a scuola to construct a railway station.

Like the Austrians, the foreign minister may also find himself thrown out of the city. For if Expo takes place, with its plans for laser beams over the lagoons, it will only show only how little Europe's sensibility, as well as that of Venice, has progressed over the last 150 years.

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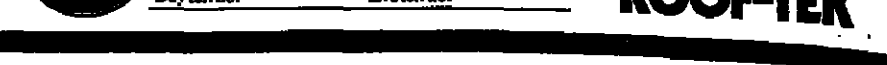


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# Leningrad's mayor launches assault on cradle of revolution

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN MOSCOW

IT SEEMS no communist symbol is sacred any longer in the Soviet Union. Not content with having taken over part of the Kremlin, supporters of Mr Boris Yeltsin, the Russian Federation's new president, are moving to evict the Leningrad regional Communist Party from Smolny Palace, the almost legendary headquarters of Lenin's October 1917 Revolution, and are threatening to ban the Communists altogether.

Revered by generations of Communists and full of Bolshevik treasures such as Lenin's personal telephone, Smolny is to be rented to the highest bidder by the new Leningrad city soviet, which is dominated by radicals opposed to the party apparatus. Mr Anatoly Sobchak, the reformist mayor, is a politician in the Yeltsin mould

and his Popular Front is linked to Mr Yeltsin's Democratic Russia.

Mr Sobchak, swept to power by a popular vote in local elections on May 23, plans a "model of a multi-party system" in Leningrad. His priority is to restore the "Venice of the North", now decaying after years of neglect and industrial pollution, to its former glory as Russia's northern capital. Included in his plans is a free-market economy for the city linked to independent Baltic republics.

Like many of his electors, Mr Sobchak wants to turn the city from a "military industrial" area into "a centre of consumer goods and world culture". He regards the dam built to protect Leningrad from the sea as "an ecological disaster". Also, reflecting a nation-wide move to restore

pre-Soviet names (Gorky is to become Nizhny Novgorod once more), a move is gathering pace to rename Leningrad either Petersburg or, because it sounds more Russian, Petrograd.

The heart of Mr Sobchak's programme, however, is an assault on Communist Party control of key Leningrad mansions and palaces. Smolny, a school for well-bred girls before Lenin and Trotsky took it over, was not communist property, Mr Sobchak said. It would have to be rented - at a high price. "If the regional party committee can afford the rent we set, they will be free to use it."

Communist officials declined to say whether they would raise the money to keep Smolny by paying rent. But Popular Front sources said Mr Sobchak, like Mr Yeltsin technically still a party member, intended to reduce the Communists to near-insignificance, with the radicals taking over their assets.

Mr Sobchak said it was unacceptable that some of the main mass media were still in party hands, and said he would launch a "peaceful, but not painless Leningrad revolution" to transfer enterprises from the embrace of government departments and ministries to the democratically-controlled city soviet.

"All our troubles over the past 70 years have stemmed from the fact that the Communist Party placed itself above the law," he told *Moscow News*. Asked if he would leave the party at its crucial congress next month, Mr Sobchak said that, like Mr Yeltsin, he would leave if the democrats proved to be in a minority.

If the Communist Party in Leningrad adhered to outdated concepts such as the dictatorship of the proletariat, "then we will have to ban it, because any call for dictatorship is a call for violence". The banning of far-right parties such as Fatherland or Memory might on the other hand be unwise "because if the right is forced underground, it will start shooting".

## Deadlock over Russian MPs

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN MOSCOW

THE struggle for power in the Russian Federation's parliament between Mr Boris Yeltsin's Democratic Russia and the official Communist Party yesterday produced deadlock, with MPs evenly divided over who should fill the four deputy presidential posts.

MPs said the compromise candidates put forward for a second round of voting to resolve the impasse were "middle of the road" politicians who either inclined towards Democratic Russia or would take a "pragmatic" case-by-case stand on important issues.

"Yeltsin dominates the proceedings by virtue of chairing the parliament," one MP said. "He is hugely popular and widely respected. Even the Communists are tending to support him on basic issues such as Russian sovereignty."

Mr Yeltsin's dramatic victory this week in the race for

the presidency of the Russian Federation in the face of open opposition from President Gorbachev has given him a nationwide platform from which to challenge the Soviet leader and the central Government's economic reform plan.

The Soviet media, still largely party-dominated except for some pro-Yeltsin newspapers and television programmes, have been obliged to feature him this week. Mr Yeltsin wants to adopt a declaration of Russian independence within the Soviet Union and an alternative Russian model for the market economy before Mr Gorbachev returns from the United States next week.

Yesterday, only one of the four Deputy Presidents was elected. He is Mr Boris Isayev, aged 55, a "centrist" belonging to no party. He represents the "agrarian" group of MPs, but he is from Chelyabinsk, in the Urals.

## EC summons for Berlin

FROM MICHAEL BINYON IN BRUSSELS AND ANNE MCILVOY IN EAST BERLIN

HERR Lothar de Maizière, the East German Prime Minister, has accepted an invitation to attend the European Community summit in Dublin at the end of this month, the first non-EC head of government ever to join such talks.

He is expected to use the opportunity to discuss how the integration of his country in the community can be speeded up once German unification has been achieved. The invitation came as Herr de Maizière held talks in Brussels with Mr Jacques Delors, the European Commission President, on transitional arrangements for community membership.

Yesterday, the East German leader warned Bonn not to force the pace of unification to serve its own electoral ends and said he was not yet

prepared to give a date for the constitutional merger.

In an interview with *Süddeutsche Zeitung*, Herr de Maizière criticized the increasing West German efforts to secure joint elections in December or January. His comments are a clear response to a request by the West German Christian Social Union, a coalition partner of the Christian Democrats, for immediate clarification on the timescale of unity.

He said he was not prepared to endanger "social peace" in East Germany by leading the country into unification before the attendant problems were solved, the main problem being property rights. Bonn is insisting on restoring expropriated property to its former owners, while East Berlin has promised that citi-

zens resident in such property will not be penalised.

Meanwhile, the foreign ministers of the two Germanies announced in East Berlin that they had a "firm common picture" of the German role in European security, emphasizing their joint commitment to NATO membership.

In Bonn yesterday, the Bundestag upper house endorsed a decision to allow West Berliners to elect members directly to the Bundestag for the first time at the next general election. The decision will make it more difficult for the Christian Democrats to win the election as the city is firmly controlled by the Social Democrats.

● **BONN:** Christian Democrats from East and West will become a single party in October. (*Reuters*)

## The Washington summit



Dinner date: President Bush and his wife, Barbara, greeting President Gorbachov and the Soviet first lady, Raisa, at the White House for the first full state dinner given to a Soviet leader. About 130 guests attended

## First ladies face icy welcome

FROM SUSAN ELLICOTT IN WELLESLEY, MASSACHUSETTS

NEVER mind that summit fever was sweeping the United States yesterday, many graduates of a women's elite liberal arts university outside Boston wished *glasnost* would just go away for a day.

The superpower first ladies, Mrs Raisa Gorbachov and Mrs Barbara Bush, were each due to give six-minute speeches at the graduation ceremony at Wellesley College by mid-morning. The students, many of whose families have spent about \$100,000 in fees over the preceding four years, were furious that their proud day had become an item on the summit agenda, bringing an invasion by the international media.

Seniors attending a rehearsal for the open-air ceremony booed television crews. The erection of a 5ft high podium for television crews sparked outrage because it blocked the view of the main stage for hundreds of graduates and their families. Organizers were hoping yesterday that the presence of the students' families would prevent further embarrassment when the first ladies' addresses were broadcast live.

Uniformed police detectives patrolled the college's leafy 500-acre grounds and lake shore as the graduation parties arrived in the morning dressed in floral summer frocks and navy blazers. The graduates paraded in black academic gowns and mortarboards, laughing and tut-tutting at fences erected alongside freshly-planted flowerbeds. "It's a circus," Miss Erika Dillon, a graduate in art and art history, said as she surveyed the white marquee, which holds 4,000 people, on the spacious college lawn. "This is the big top."

The college was founded in 1870 by a wealthy local patrician anxious to promote the education of women, and, the students say, the annual graduation ceremony has lost its cosy New England charm because organizers shifted the venue from the traditional, ivy-covered quadrangle, the better for television coverage.

The controversy over Mrs Bush's appearance at Wellesley has raged for weeks. A quarter of this year's 600 graduates signed a petition protesting against the selection of Mrs Bush as their commencement speaker. She was an inappropriate role model, they objected, famous only through the achievements of her husband.

Mrs Bush trumped the graduates by announcing that Mrs Gorbachov, widely admired in America, had accepted a hitherto secret invitation to join her at Wellesley. The American press assumed that would calm the Wellesley seniors, whom it labelled "spoiled brats", "strumpets", "bimbos" and "unshaven feminists". But, Wellesleyans point out, Mrs Gorbachov is still visiting her ceremony as a wife. Mrs Bush did not invite her as Miss Raisa Maximovna, a teacher of culture and philosophy.

"Personally, I think it sort of compounded the problem," Miss Edina Rudolph, a graduate in black studies and political science, said. "Raisa has not risen to any prominence on her own. She's picking up the crumbs of her husband."

## Soviet anglophile in tweeds steals Gerasimov's media limelight

FROM MARY DEJEVSKY IN WASHINGTON

ONE man is missing from the summit limelight - a man without whom, it used to be assumed, such a gathering could hardly happen. Where, everyone is asking, is Mr Gennadi Gerasimov? And who, they might also ask, is Mr Arkadi Maslennikov?

Since the Soviet President arrived in Washington on Wednesday evening, Mr Gerasimov, the ever-ready spokesman, has not appeared on US television once. He is reported to have attended Mr and Mrs Gorbachov's lunch at the Soviet Embassy for US academics and film stars, but he has not flattered the fact. He has not set foot in what used to be his natural habitat: the media centre.

In place of Mr Gerasimov's

sharp suits and even sharper wit, the assembled ranks of journalists now face the gentlemanly but slightly contrived Mr Maslennikov. As adept at bantering with his US counterpart, Mr Martin Fitzwater, as Mr Gerasimov, and as ready as his predecessor to block an unwelcome inquiry, Mr Maslennikov gives the impression of having his feet planted more firmly on the ground.

Mr Maslennikov is aged 59, and a former foreign correspondent for the official Soviet Communist Party paper *Pravda*. He worked in India in the early 1970s, along with a number of other current emissaries of the East European media world who call themselves the "Indian Mafia". His last foreign posting for *Pravda* was as its chief correspondent in London, and he is a confirmed anglophile.

His London experience has left its mark on his style and his approach. When not speaking for the President abroad, he favours a tweed jacket and flannels. He repeatedly alludes to his London experience - and may be credited with having introduced the system of red-and-green channels to the Soviet customs service. His valedictory despatch from London for *Pravda* was a eulogy, perhaps the only one it has ever received, to the efficiency and good humour of the Heathrow customs.

Like Mr Gorbachov and several members of the Soviet leadership, Mr Maslennikov is a country boy made good. He was born in a village near the town of Kostroma, north of Moscow. He went to school locally and then in Moscow. On his appointment as presidential press spokesman in March, he immediately endeared himself to the Moscow press corps because of his unusual patronymic: Afkanovich. The combination Arkadi Afkanovich has a certain euphony.

Between his London posting for *Pravda* and his elevation, Mr Maslennikov was briefly chief press officer for the Supreme Soviet, the Soviet standing parliament. He was plucked from there after Mr Gorbachov became executive President.

The press corps have wondered whether Mr Gerasimov has been passed over. Had he not made his name through being the President's *de facto* spokesman? When Mr Maslennikov was appointed, Mr Gerasimov was on an American lecture tour. On his return, he seemed prickly. During his press conferences at the Foreign Ministry, he made it clear that he spoke only for the Foreign Ministry, not for the President.

Immediately after Mr Maslennikov's appointment, it was hinted that Mr Gerasimov might be in line for a senior diplomatic posting. While there has so far been no announcement, it seems unlikely that the debate Mr Gerasimov will be content to remain within the four walls of the Foreign Ministry for the rest of his career.



Time-watch: Mr Martin Fitzwater, the US spokesman, checking his watch as Mr Arkadi Maslennikov makes his US debut after arriving an hour late for a briefing

## SUMMIT NOTEBOOK by Martin Fletcher

## Grey takes over from Reagan's glitter

On Thursday evening, between the White House and the Soviet Embassy, President Gorbachov spontaneously stopped his 43-car motorcade so that he could meet the people. Inevitably CNN, the 24-hour American news channel, was there to cover it. The secret of its ubiquity? It had a \$100,000 (£60,000) camera with a state-of-the-art telephoto lens atop the 55ft Washington Monument a good mile away.

Earlier the same camera covered the summit's formal opening ceremony on the south lawn of a half-painted White House partially obscured by scaffolding and tarpaulins. Who was that in the official US reception party? - Mr Marion Barry, Washington's Mayor, perhaps one of the few politicians in the world whose prospects look even grimmer than Mr Gorbachov's. Had the summit begun four days later, Mr Barry would have been not in the White House gardens but in a federal court for the opening of his trial on 14 charges relating to cocaine and perjury.

Talking of ubiquity, just one person managed to have himself invited to both Mr Gorbachov's grizzly lunch for American opinion formers on Thursday and the official White House state dinner that evening - Dr Henry Kissinger, the former Secretary of State. He, Dr Billy Graham, the evangelist, Dr

Armand Hammer, the industrialist, and Mr Richard Cheney, the Defence Secretary, were moreover the only men to attend both this and the 1987 White House summit dinner given by former President Reagan.

The two dinners eloquently summed up the difference in presidential styles. At the Bush dinner only Jessica Tandy and Morgan Freeman, stars of *Driving Miss Daisy*, leavened a grey guest list predominantly of government bigwigs. The Reagan dinner was enlivened by the cream of Hollywood, musicians, sportsmen and - a bit of Reaganesque humour? - Edward Teller, father of both the H-bomb and the Strategic Defence Initiative ("Star Wars").

Nevertheless the Bush invites went to some trouble to attend. Mr Clayton Yeutter, the Agriculture Secretary, flew back from a Paris trade meeting on Pan Am. Mrs Carla Hills, the Trade Ambassador, and Mr Robert Moskacher, the Commerce Secretary, likewise returned from Paris, but on Concorde. The exception was Mr Tom Foley, the House Speaker, who passed up both the dinner and a personal meeting with Mr Gorbachov yesterday morning, preferring to remain on holiday in Barbados.

Even though there was scant chance of the Gorbachovs having time to themselves during the summit, the Soviet Embassy was taking no chances. There is a small second-floor cinema in the 16th Street Embassy and it got in half a dozen films just in case. These included *Driving Miss Daisy* and *Born on the Fourth of July*. Conspicuously absent, however, was the Sean Connery Cold War throwback *The Hunt for Red October*.

Spare a thought, incidentally, for Mr Alexander Bessmertnykh, the new Soviet Ambassador, who arrived in Washington only 12 days ago to be plunged into a whirlwind of summit preparations. He was even unable to occupy his official residence, since it had been reserved for the Gorbachovs. He also cannot occupy his brand new embassy building in Washington's smart Mount Afton. The Americans are insisting that it stand empty until the half-finished US Embassy in Moscow, found to be riddled with Soviet listening devices in 1985, is torn down and rebuilt - and that cannot begin until Moscow agrees to compensate Washington.

Mrs Nancy Reagan, her old sparring partner. Things were bad enough before, but Mrs Reagan has since published her memoirs, putting no punches. She accuses Mrs Gorbachov of talking "nonsense", of lecturing her on ideology, of being insensitive, inconsiderate and on occasion downright rude.

Mr Gorbachov's post-summit swing through Minnesota and California is designed primarily to burnish a tarnished public image. As it is not part of the state visit, Washington left the organization entirely to Moscow. Late in the day it dawned on the Soviet team that they lacked the public relations expertise to cope with packs of Western media and to ensure the most flattering coverage.

No matter. Help was to hand. Accompanying Mr Gorbachov on a trip whose itinerary he has now reshaped will be Mr Sig Rogich, Mr Bush's personal image-builder. Minnesota Republicans became alarmed that Mr Gorbachov's visit would boost Mr Rudy Perpich, the state's Democratic Governor, who faces a tough re-election contest next November. Balance has now been restored, however. Flying up to Minnesota on Mr Gorbachov's Aeroflot jet will be Mr Rudy Boschwitz and Mr Dave Durenberger, the state's two Republican senators.

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## First ladies face icy welcome

From Susan Elliott  
IN WELLESLEY, MASSACHUSETTS

NEVER mind that the United States was sweeping the United States yesterday, Mrs. Barbara Bush, who wished to give a graduation speech at Wellesley College by the morning. The students, however, were not in the mood for the preceding four years, but had become an item in the summit agenda, bringing media.

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Seniors attending a school for the open-air ceremony booed television crews in the erection of a 5ft high white fence for television crews outside the entrance because it blocked the view of the main stage. Hundreds of graduates and their families, however, were hoping to see the president and first lady. The presence of the students, however, would prevent the first ladies' addresses from being cast into.

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## Israel claims Libya played a key role in beach raid

By A CORRESPONDENT IN JERUSALEM  
AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

ISRAEL'S chief of intelligence services has accused Libya of involvement in Wednesday's Palestinian guerrilla raid on an Israeli beach, said Mr Yasser Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization, probably did not know of the attack before it happened.

Major-General Amnon Shahak's remarks in interviews published yesterday contradict the Foreign Ministry claim that Mr Arafat almost certainly knew of the planned attack because he met the organizer, Mr Abu Abbas, leader of the Palestine Liberation Front, last week.

Mr Arafat insists his organization had no role in the

raid, but has refused to condemn it and has ruled out immediate disciplinary action. These steps are demanded by the United States and Britain as essential to keep the process of dialogue with the PLO alive.

General Shahak, in an interview with the Hebrew daily, *Yediot Ahronot*, said the guerrillas were trained at a camp on the Libyan coast.

"Our investigation shows beyond a doubt that Libyan military personnel were involved in all stages of preparation. Libyans helped to move the terrorists to the ship, the ship itself had a Libyan crew and aboard was a Libyan military officer."

The comments hold out the threat of Israeli retaliation against Libya, also hinted at yesterday by Mr Yehoshua Segal, an MP of the right-wing Likud party and himself a former military intelligence chief. "Libya needs to know that just as Libya was reached in the past, it can be reached again," he said on Israeli Radio.

Yesterday Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza Strip reacted with anger to the US veto of a UN Security Council resolution on a 14-1 vote, calling for a fact-finding mission to report on abuses of Palestinians in the occupied territories. The veto was seen as a toughening of Washington's position following the Palestinian attack.

Last week, Arab diplomats at the UN were hopeful that Washington would consider sending UN observers in return for the PLO not insisting on a US visa for Mr Arafat. CAIRO: Libya yesterday denied Israeli accusations that it was involved in Wednesday's abortive Palestinian raid on the Israeli coast.

"It is certain that Libya has no link with this operation. It is completely baseless that a Libyan ship left Benghazi or any other port for this purpose," the Libyan Foreign Minister, Mr Jaddallah Azzouz al-Talhi, told reporters at Cairo airport.

He accompanied the Libyan leader, Colonel Gaddafi, on a surprise trip to Egypt during their journey home from Yemen after an Arab summit in Iraq.

## Twenty die in cable car crash

Moscow — At least 20 people were killed when two tourist cable cars in the Georgian capital of Tbilisi broke loose and crashed into a support pylon, throwing passengers on to the roof of a UN Security Council building, witnesses said.

"One of the cars seemed to explode," said Mr Craig Line, an American photographer visiting Tbilisi who witnessed the accident. "The car just disintegrated." Iveria, the unofficial Georgian information agency, said the accident occurred on the ride from the centre of Tbilisi to a park on the Matnashvili (the Sacred Mountain). (AP)

## Marcos improves

New York — Mrs Imelda Marcos was in a New York hospital, recovering from a stomach inflammation that caused her to collapse at her trial here and cough up blood. (AFP)

## Crowd attack

Calcutta — A crowd of 1,000 beat a woman to death and seriously injured three people, including a UN official, in the mistaken belief that they were trying to kidnap children, a senior policeman said. (Reuters)

## Arrivals slow

Hong Kong — The number of Vietnamese boat people arriving here has dropped by 80 per cent this year, a development which local officials admit could weaken the case for an end to the territory's status as a port of first asylum.

## Poll gratitude

Rangoon — Burma's new unofficial majority party thanked ruling generals for holding elections but avoided calling for the release of Aung San Suu Kyi, the detained opposition leader. (AFP)

## Strike penalty

Madrid — A Spanish train drivers' union has been ordered to pay the state railway company £300,000 for striking during the New Year holiday. (Reuters)

## Peru quake town still waits for aid

From REUTER IN SORITOR, PERU

STUNNED survivors of an earthquake in northern Peru complained bitterly that they had received no government help and were awaiting aid from left-wing guerrillas.

Officials counted the bodies of 101 people after the quake struck Peru's Amazon region on Tuesday night, the first of several violent tremors around the world this week from Romania to Japan.

Survivors slept in rice paddies and mango groves outside the ruined farming town of Soritor. No tents and only a few boxes of food and medicines had arrived, residents said. The villagers used shovels and their hands to dig for belongings in the rubble.

Some residents said they hoped pro-Cuban guerrillas, who appeared to enjoy wide support in the town, would bring aid because, said one, "the Government pays no attention to us". They said they trusted the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement.

In lush, tropical Soritor, one of the hardest-hit towns, residents carried candles and flowers down rubble-strewn streets in a mass funeral procession for the town's 27 victims.

"We wait and wait, but the civil defence comes only with empty hands and promises," said Señor Buenaventura Bocanegra, after he and his wife Aurora buried their two daughters. "We sleep in the orchards. We've lost everything," he said.

Dogs howled for their dead owners, homeless children sat dazed in the town square, and neighbours tossed flowers at a collapsed home where a family of seven died.

"Everything started shaking, all the lights went out, and suddenly everything collapsed. Then all I could hear were cries and groans," said Señor Eulalio Marujo, whose mud-brick home collapsed in the quake.

He recalled that, on the night of the quake, he and other residents fled out of the town church after evening Mass. Half an hour later, the quake levelled the church. Only a wooden statue of Christ was salvaged and placed behind the rubble. Residents placed candles around the statue.



Religious harmony: The Pope greeting the Dalai Lama in his library at the Vatican yesterday where they met for private talks. The spiritual leader of the Tibetan people, who has been living in exile in the Himalayas in India, has been touring Italy for the past two weeks.

## UK and Albania to discuss links

From MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

THE British and Albanian Governments are in the process of arranging a meeting of officials in a third country later this month to explore the possibility of establishing diplomatic relations for the first time in 44 years.

The move coincides with steps by the United States to establish an embassy in the Albanian capital of Tirana now that Europe's last communist stronghold is seeking to end its self-imposed isolation.

The first official US delegation to visit Albania since 1939 was this week given a message for President Bush from President Aliu, urging the restoration of relations as soon as possible. Mr Tom Lantos, a Democratic congressman and delegation member, said the US hoped to have a functioning embassy by October.

The process would be far more complicated in Britain's case because of a decades-old dispute over Albanian gold,

worth about £40 million, which was recovered from the Nazis at the end of the Second World War but is still held in London. In 1946 two British destroyers struck mines in waters off Albania with the loss of 40 lives. Albania denied responsibility. The International Court in The Hague ruled otherwise and ordered Albania to pay £843,947 in compensation. Britain froze the gold when Albania refused.

Washington officials say Albania has also been making overtures about restoring relations with France, which is significant because the French, along with the British and Americans, comprise the Allied Tripartite Commission, which still technically administers the gold.

The US broke off relations with Albania before the Second World War, and repeatedly accused Albania of human rights violations during the long rule of the late Enver Hoxha.

## Protests as Naples taps run dry

From PAUL BOMFARD IN ROME

FOR the third day running yesterday, the streets of Naples were blocked by makeshift barricades of hundreds of burning tyres.

Thousands of men, women and children have taken to the streets to protest against water shortages and pollution which has made most of the city's taps emit a thin trickle of dark brown mud.

The water crisis is the latest insult to a city which for decades has been increasingly afflicted by poverty, unemployment, administrative chaos and organized crime. One of Italy's poorest urban populations is now reduced to cooking and washing with costly mineral water, and even the pizzerias are using bottled water to make dough.

Angry crowds are threatening to use force to stop the World Cup matches, which start next weekend, taking place in Naples, unless clean water starts to flow again.

## Oberammergau fraud case arrest

From IAN MURRAY IN BONN

POLICE have arrested on suspicion of fraud the Oberammergau hotelier who took DM2 million (£730,000) from two British travel agencies, Trafalgar Tours and Leger Travel, for 20,000 allegedly non-existent tickets to the town's Passion Play. The police are also investigating allegations that Notz Kulturreisen, an Innsbruck travel agency, sold another 10,000 tickets it did not have to customers around the world.

Announcing the arrest of Herr Heinrich Horath, manager of the Alois Lang, a hotel in the village, Herr Friedrich Bethke, the state prosecutor, said he did not yet know if there was a link between the two alleged frauds. Herr Werner Noz, the owner of the travel agency, was also being investigated with the help of the Innsbruck prosecutor, he said.

Herr Bethke said that, in the two weeks since the play opened, about 250 tourists who believed their tickets

were awaiting collection had been unable to get in. The two British agents had notified their 20,000 customers, he said, so the disappointed tourists had probably bought their "non-tickets" from one of the firms which had dealt through the Innsbruck company. Not all of these had yet been traced so that they could warn travellers they would be unable to see the play.

Herr Bethke said police had interviewed many of those arriving without tickets and had seized documents and a computer from the hotel and the agency. The investigations were continuing but could take a considerable time.

Almost all the 20,000 people who bought their tickets through the British companies have cancelled their visits to the village. The play committee, which has sole control of the issue of tickets, is now to consider different ways of selling the seats for the next performance — in the year 2000.

## Mitterrand labours to climb back into public favour

From PHILIP JACOBSON IN PARIS



M Mitterrand on an earlier expedition to the Solatré rock

ONE OF the odder media events on the French political calendar will be staged tomorrow when President Mitterrand makes his annual Pentecost pilgrimage to the top of Solatré rock in eastern France. Hot weather is forecast, but M Mitterrand, aged 73, will doubtless set his usual brisk pace, fulfilling the vow made in a German prisoner-of-war camp that if freed he would tackle the stiff climb every year.

Toiling along in the President's wake come scores of journalists, photographers and television crews, plus a selection of cabinet ministers and Elysée Palace notables. The great man, casually dressed for the weekend, usually obliges by doffing a flat cap for the cameras.

But even if the sun shines on him

again, it will be a rather more pensive M Mitterrand making the ascent. While he has been cutting as best a dash as circumstances permit on various world stages — he managed a flying pre-summer visit to Moscow last week — the French are passing increasingly harsh judgments on their leader's failure to follow through on the extravagant promises made in the name of his (nominally) Socialist Government at the last election.

On the domestic front, voters judge M Mitterrand to have let them down badly on unemployment and purchasing power, the environment and the egalitarian society, the fight against racism and policies on immigration. One recent poll found that while M Mitterrand still enjoys a healthy 55 per cent approval rating, his image as a concerned and responsive man of the left has

clearly been dented. It is four years since his personal standing was as low as today, and it has dropped four percentage points since he last tackled the peak at Solatré.

Now, nobody in French politics "reads" the electorate better than M Mitterrand and over the past week or two the tenor of his public speeches makes it clear that he is intent on repairing the damage. In Auxerre, he fulminated against inequality and chains that bind the lowest paid; at Evry he came out with guns blazing against the self-perpetuating elite of France's *grandes écoles*, whom one is assured run everything worth running in France. For the French press, this was definitely front-page stuff.

But while the President stirs and awakes, mentally calculating the benefits of Sunday's mainly exploit, what of his Prime Minister, M

Michel Rocard? Ironically, he is the Cabinet's real outdoor man, a dedicated walker, but the implications of a revived M Mitterrand working the true left constituency cannot thrill, especially since the mainstream conservative leader, M Jacques Chirac, appears to be emerging from a political hibernation and preparing to oppose.

Poor M Rocard, caught between a rock and a hard place, not for the first time unsure on which flank he is most threatened. In *Le Monde's* caustic judgement, M Mitterrand seems intent on passing the whole untidy parcel of issues in the social domain — the same issues that he has failed to address during his 10 years in office — over to the Prime Minister. Thanks to the Elysée, the biggest albatross of the lot, immigration, is swinging around M Rocard's neck. With friends like that...

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## US task force sent to Liberia

By ANDREW MCEWEN AND LIBBY JUKES

THE United States Government has sent a task force of six naval ships and 2,281 marines to Liberia, where two ships from the British Royal Navy are standing by to evacuate expatriates caught in a five-month conflict which has claimed more than 1,000 lives.

A Pentagon spokesman said the flotilla, including a destroyer, an amphibious assault ship and a tank landing ship, would arrive soon off the West African coast. The United States does not intend to invade Liberia, but was sending the fleet in case foreigners were unable to leave by "commercial" means. "We believe the chance of these ships being used is low, but we want to be prepared," the spokesman added.

President Doe of Liberia yesterday announced that he will not stand for re-election in 1991, but ruled out suggestions that Mr Charles Taylor, the rebel leader, wanted on criminal charges in Liberia, could be a candidate. President Doe said that peace initiatives involving Mr Jimmy Carter, the former US President, and the United Nations were under way.

Whitehall sources said that a British frigate and a fleet tanker would be ready to assist an American-organized evacuation if necessary.

With the rebel forces of the National Patriotic Front only 25 miles from Monrovia, where President Doe is under siege, there are fears that a bloody battle for the Liberian capital cannot be far off. The US State Department has told the remaining 1,200 Americans, mainly businessmen and missionaries, to leave. There are 223 British citizens still in Liberia, and the British Embassy there is responsible for about 270 other people.

The latest US action was seen as a warning to both Mr Taylor, who might block the expatriates' exit from Monrovia, and President Doe, after government troops raided a United Nations compound this week.

Liberia was founded 150 years ago by freed American slaves, and retains strong links with the United States, which supported a coup led by General Doe in 1980. During the Reagan Administration, it was the largest recipient of US aid in black Africa.

France said yesterday that 500 French troops sent to the West African country of Gabon last week will be withdrawn. The troops were sent as reinforcements to protect expatriates in the important oil centre of Port Gentil, after the death last month of a Gabonese opposition leader sparked rebellion. M Roland Dumas, the Foreign Minister, said that France would remain actively involved in Africa, but wished to stay out of the continent's internal affairs.

Mr Augustin Mbomah, the Speaker of the Gabonese national assembly, resigned yesterday, angry at a raid by government troops on his home.

ABIDJAN: Ivory Coast formally ended 30 years of one-party rule yesterday by legalizing nine opposition parties. The statement announcing the move warned the parties not to jeopardize law and order or incite tribal hatred. (Reuters)

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# Outsiders on two counts

Clifford Longley

Had there ever been a women's liberation movement, the Church of England would hardly have dreamt one up for itself. So all arguments for the ordination of women which rest on purely religious considerations, claiming for instance that women priests were always part of God's plan but that He left it 2,000 years before letting anyone know, can be taken with a pinch of salt.

The equivalence of men and women is an insight to which the church came late, and learnt only from watching what was happening outside. If women had a right equal to that of men to be judges, doctors or even prime ministers, the church eventually had to ask itself whether they did not also have a right to be priests and bishops. But before such arguments were fit to be tossed around in synod and cloister, they had to be translated into church-speak. The word "rights", in particular, had to be heavily qualified, for anyone who knows anything about ordination knows it can never be demanded as a right. It emerged from the shuffle as a woman's "right to have her vocation tested", which essentially means the right to be judged as to her suitability and seriousness, for no one can verify the validity of a mystical calling.

Inevitably, before long, this ecclesiastical edition of the secular argument took on a theological life of its own, and at the present stage of the debate it is commonly put forward as if it had no connection with anything which has happened outside. One such proposition states, for instance, that the all-male priesthood is (and hence must always have been) defective, because it is representative of only the male half of humanity. But, as Mrs Thatcher might have said, there is really no such thing as the priesthood, there are only individual priests, each of whom can only be male or female.

To declare 2,000 years of the church's history defective is not a very secure basis on which to commend the truth of the church's message today. That is what happens when secular values are dressed in ecclesiastical vestments. Secular values can be valid today, but not yesterday; if a religious truth is true today, it must always have been so. And it has to be admitted that some of the arguments against female ordination cobbled together by conservative theologians also tend to prove too much.

What has happened to women's rights outside the church will no doubt ultimately prove decisive inside it, irrespective of who scores most points in the theological tennis match. This is particularly so for a church which cannot drift too far from what the majority of the population regard as right and decent without calling into question its special relation-

ship with the nation. The public certainly thinks the issue of women's ordination is about the rights of women, which is why people with no stake or interest in Christianity nevertheless tend to have strong opinions about it.

Those who celebrate Holy Communion also happen to enjoy power and status, for they are the professionals among the amateurs, and this, rather than the question of access to the sacramental mysteries, dictates how the issue is seen, inside the church as much as outside. The church is a hierarchy, with the laity at the bottom, the clergy in the middle and the bishops at the top. And the laity are regarded by the rest as those who are not quite serious about being Christian — the amateurish, half-baked, ignorant, second-class folk with mere baptism to their name.

So a layman in the Church of England who feels the urge to deepen his spiritual life must sooner or later think of ordination: the approved way to signify and fulfil his greater commitment. Some people are hounded by the thought for years before doing anything about it, but the whole ecclesiastical system is shaped to convey to them the nagging subliminal message: half-hearted Christians are laymen, whole-hearted Christians are clergy.

There is a significant difference here from the Roman Catholic Church, where a layman who gets married knows that the possibility of ordination can be crossed off the list for ever. He can proceed at peace with the life he has, and be as devoted to his faith as he feels called to be. But because the Church of England abolished statutory celibacy for priests in the 16th century, it has no way to distinguish the call to the devout life from the call to orders. If the first applies to everyone, which no one who reads the Gospels can doubt, then so must the second — or so it must seem.

If all lay males, married or not, are always subject to this call, it is absurd to argue that no lay female can ever be. Some of them do indeed hear a clear call to do Christ's work to the utmost, but for centuries all the ecclesiastical signposts have been pointed to ordination as the only proper response; and, incomprehensibly, the signposts read "Men Only".

Women are now demanding the right to be admitted to the ranks of first-class Christians. It is indeed an argument about equal rights and opportunities, and the secular perception is entirely correct. But below the surface, it is also an argument about the clerical monopoly of religious seriousness. The very word "layman", originally just meaning a non-cleric, now means "outsider", one who is excluded. And that, for the Church of England, is a still deeper problem. Ordaining women will only make it worse.

...and moreover

## MATTHEW PARRIS

ETON'S 550th anniversary celebrations are a good time for this column to take a look at education.

Mrs Thatcher has got hold of completely the wrong end of the stick. Ever since she became Education Secretary in 1970 and started wearing those awful hats, she has been tormented by the idea that schools are for learning. This notion has got so out of hand that she has now started ordering her ministers to make lists of the things children should learn, and organize tests, to see how much on those lists is getting through.

But I hardly remember anything I learnt at school, do you? It would all be out of date now anyway. Reading and writing have proved useful, but you learn those in a few months. All that follows is really just practising to get better, and school is the worst possible place to do this because there are no incentives.

As for arithmetic, the basic skills are vital but can be picked up by most children in a matter of weeks. I was taken away from the junior school in Nicosia when we were just about to learn decimals — leaving behind a goldfish in a bowl as a present for my class — and placed in Borrowdale Government Primary School (motto, "Truth Conquers", embroidered on my khaki cap) in what was then Salisbury, Southern Rhodesia, when Standard 2A had just finished learning decimals. So I had to pick them up in later life as I went along, always regretting, as an MP, that the Chancellor would not present his budgets in vulgar fractions, which I still prefer.

The teacher at Borrowdale told my parents that my brother, a year younger than me, had reading difficulties and might be sub-normal. He went on to get a degree in molecular physics. And what of the other subjects — geography, for instance? I seem to remember something about the "maize triangle" and heavy industry in Leith. I don't believe a fraction of it sinks in. Half the Midlands goes to Ibiza every year and still doesn't know where it is. In the queue for a flight to Girona at Luton last year, I asked the woman in front of me if this was indeed the Girona queue. "I

don't know," she said. "We're with Horizon."

History? We did the Tudors, Chaka Zulu, Lobengula and Cecil Rhodes, so I knew all about them, but have been obliged to cancel out everything I learned about the last two as their roles have been reversed by modern historians. We never touched 19th-century England, so I know only a little about Disraeli, picked up from Ian Gilmour.

Then there was physics. Metal expands when heated (remember?), which is why gaps were left between sections of railway line. But no longer: now it's continuous weld.

I suppose my admission to Cambridge was ensured primarily by my splendid literature A levels. My essays on one set book, Lawrence's *The Rainbow*, went particularly well. I have never read *The Rainbow*, have you? My French results were good, too. For the oral, they sent the wife of the Swiss ambassador from Pretoria to Swaziland (where I was then at school) with a copy of *Paris Match*. She opened it and pointed at a picture of a cow. "Qu'est ce que c'est?" she asked.

"C'est une vache, Madame," I said.

I arrived at Cambridge, the words written on my last report by my English teacher, Mr Lomborg, still ringing in my ears: "I'm sure I think only slightly less highly of Matthew's abilities than he does himself."

England was new to me. One of the things I noticed, as distinguishing Englishmen from other nationalities, is that it is much more difficult to tell when an Englishman is stupid. In England, someone can be well-spoken, genial and impeccably dressed, carry himself with confidence and have the bearing, and all the worldly trappings, of an able and successful man — yet be scarcely bright enough to walk on two legs. The camouflage is remarkable. It can take months before you even suspect. His wife may not have realized until it was far, far too late.

This, I believe, is the true meaning of education, and the special contribution of the English public school. Etonians, we salute you!

Charles Townshend warns against unfettered police powers in Ulster in the light of 'shoot to kill'

# No carte blanche, not even in war

However often we may be told that "shoot to kill" is a misnomer for a non-existent policy, a public suspicion plainly exists that the truth about several deaths in Northern Ireland and elsewhere has not been told.

Beyond the shallow grave of the Stalker-Sampson inquiry into six deaths in Northern Ireland in November and December 1982, is the stone-wall manned by Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Attorney General, who announced to Parliament on January 25, 1988, that the findings of the inquiry would not be acted upon — not because they were untrue, but because they conflicted with the "public interest". At least one aspect of this, he hinted, was "the safety of people's lives".

Few would cavil at this. Nobody would dispute that in Northern Ireland, the police and other security forces, military and semi-military, put their lives at risk daily to protect the public. But all must know by now that there is more to it than this. Some lives get more protection than others.

When a serious newspaper carries a headline suggesting that the

killing of policemen may have been allowed in order to shield an informer, nobody can be unaware that intelligence services move in inscrutable ways. Public scrutiny does not suit them. It may even cripple them, with perhaps disastrous results for the public — who can tell? Certainly not the public.

So what do we know about what we must call "the alleged shoot to kill policy"? We do not have the Stalker-Sampson report. But we have, on the one hand, John Stalker's own remarkable — and apparently plausible — book. We also have the patient inquiry by the experienced BBC journalist Peter Taylor (*Stalker: The Search for the Truth*).

We have, in addition, a mass of newspaper reports which fill out a picture of complex and convoluted intelligence networks in which the hushed at Ballynerry Road North appears to be a tiny but characteristic detail.

On the other hand, we have the odd — and as yet unresolved — business of the Greater Manchester Police investigation of Stalker's relationship with the businessman

Kevin Taylor, which led to his being taken off the RUC inquiry; and any number of official statements which are notable not so much for their uninformative as for their unwillingness to recognize the issues involved.

From tomorrow, we shall also have to consider a large-scale television drama-documentary, *Shoot to Kill*, which will almost certainly be the version of events that has most influence on the general public. We already know that Sir John Hermon, chief constable of Northern Ireland at the time, does not like the picture it will present (Ulster TV has decided not to broadcast it), and we can see here a repetition of the stand-off between him and John Stalker during the inquiry.

For the public issue may not be whether Stalker was right to conduct his inquiry as he did, insisting on securing the tape-recording of the hushed affair. As far as can be judged from his book and from Peter Taylor's investigation, Stalker was amazingly naive about undercover operations in Northern Ireland, and his attitude alarmed and antagonized the

RUC. But that was not his fault. Who selected him, and why was he not briefed about what Hermon would see as the inquiry's obvious limits?

It is now clear that an open-ended inquiry was never on the cards, so why was Stalker allowed to believe that it was? The eventual confrontation, which should make corrosive television, was inevitable. In it, Stalker represented the idea of police accountability in an open society, while Hermon's view was that the RUC could not be judged by the standards of the mainland police. That is the fact that public opinion must face.

After 10 years of a policy of "Ulsterization" and "police primacy", it is plain that what is going on in Northern Ireland cannot be reduced to a mere civil disturbance. It is in some respects, and some areas, an undeclared war, and in many more an undeclared state of emergency. Whatever its self-image, the RUC is not perceived by the public as a normal police force. Its defensive involvement was the most graphic — and accurate — image conveyed in

Stalker's book. Along with its semi-military cast, it has inherited from its ancestor, the Royal Irish Constabulary (RIC), an attitude to the public which is distant, to put it at its polite.

The RIC itself, in the mutant form of the Black and Tans, was once defended by a similar appeal to the public interest. Confronted in 1920 by uncontrollable police reprisals which were alleged by its opponents to be systematic and deliberate (like "shoot to kill"), the government of the day took the view that preservation of police morale must outweigh all other issues. Discipline, it was said, could not be too strictly imposed lest the police collapse. That was a comprehensible but ultimately catastrophic view.

Times have changed, but nobody has yet suggested that the dependence of the British state on the rule of law has been modified, and any statesman who construes the public interest more narrowly — even by invoking the protection of lives — is truly putting at risk the real interest of this country. The author is Professor of Modern History at Keele University.

# After 50 years, the spectre that still haunts France

Martin Alexander finds the racism of the Vichy regime echoed in today's extreme politics of both right and left

France, recorded General Maurice Gamelin, French commander-in-chief, on May 3, 1940, "is going to experience one of the most difficult summers in her history". Fifty years on, with the British media recalling the "miracle of Dunkirk", Churchill and the Battle of Britain, British people may overlook the painful ambiguity of this summer's anniversaries for the French.

For ordinary French people their defeat was tragic and quite unambiguous. It divided the nation, laying bare ideological hatreds between left and right and reactivating a ferocious anti-Semitism that had not been seen since the Dreyfus Affair.

When German columns entered Paris on June 12, the last government of the Third Republic fled to Bordeaux. There, on the 16th, it dissolved, rancorously arguing over whether to seek terms with Hitler or move to French North Africa and fight on. Unable to command his cabinet, the prime minister, Paul Reynaud, resigned. On June 22 an armistice was arranged by France's new leader, Marshal Philippe Pétain, the ultra-conservative veteran of French successes in the First World War.

With France prostrate, Hitler visited Paris in triumph to savour his victory and gaze on the tomb of Napoleon. Pétain's new regime accepted humiliating Nazi terms. The north and west of France was placed under German occupation. The French army was emasculated. Seizing the opportunity presented by universal bewilderment at the turn of events, Pétain and Pierre Laval swept away the Republic. On July 10, 1940, outmanoeuvred and intimidated by the right, the parliamentarians voted themselves out of business and transferred constituent powers to Pétain. In place of the Republic, Laval fashioned an authoritarian, racist and collaborationist regime, the *Etat Français*. The new order ruled its mutilated inheritance from the incongruous setting of the fashionable spa town of Vichy.

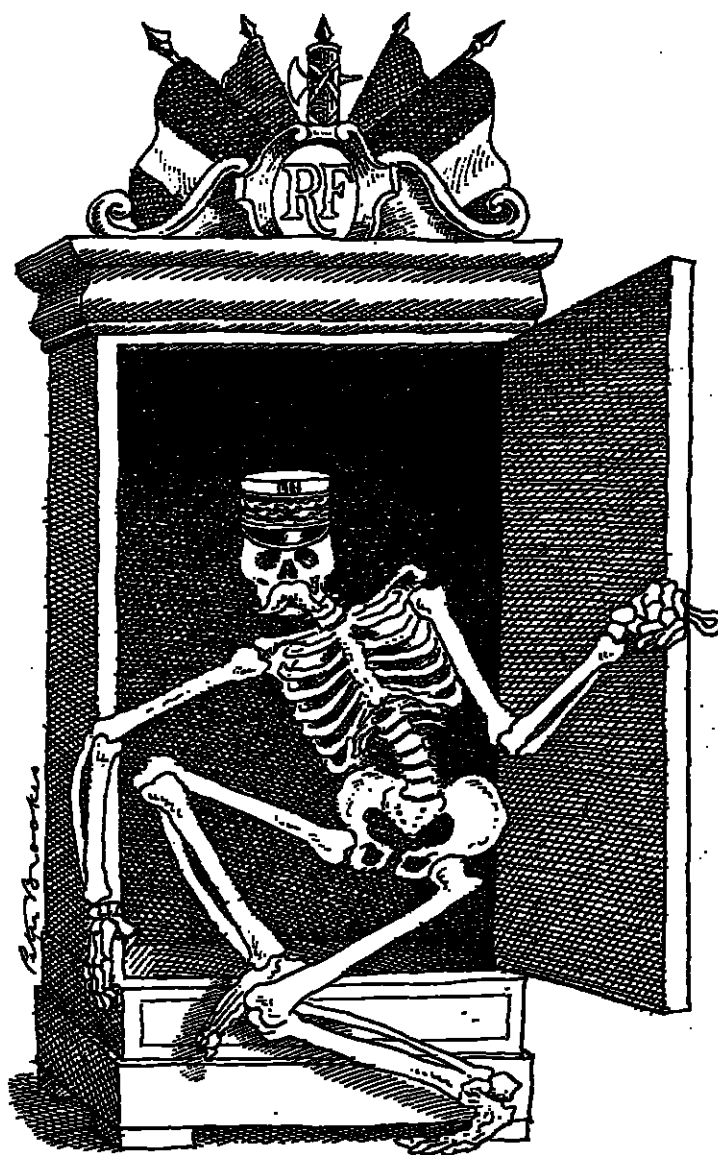
Fifty years on, the French have yet to complete the task of exorcising the ghosts of 1940. Paradoxically, France still has more difficulty reconciling itself to the defeat than to the controversial politics of Vichy. There has been no anniversary gathering of historians or participants to analyse the collapse of the Anglo-French alliance; the strategic débâcle has had little attention in the French press.

Admittedly June 18 — the date of de Gaulle's appeal from London for French people to continue the fight — is religiously observed. This year, the celebrations will be on an unprecedented scale, a psalm of praise and thanksgiving for the spirit of the Resistance. The Gaullist commemoration highlights the need for French people to salvage self-respect from the wreckage of 1940.

But the Gaullist commemoration is as much a tribute to what *le grand Charles* achieved later, in helping to liberate France in 1944, as it is a recognition of his courage against the odds in 1940. Then, he rallied only a few hundred to his banner; hundreds of thousands saw salvation in Pétainism. Most French people, however, neither collaborated nor resisted. They waited, biding their time to see how the war would unfold.

Research suggests that inept generalship and misguided strategy played a greater part than plots or treason in bringing about France's "strange defeat" (as it was dubbed by the Jewish historian and Resistance martyr, Marc Bloch). France should now come to terms with the military defeat, acknowledging that the record of its rank-and-file combatants deserves to be respected.

Coming to terms with the record of Vichy is more difficult. For many years most people preferred to forget the uncomfortable reality of collaboration. A myth was fashioned which claimed that wartime crimes in France were the work of the Germans alone. Until recently many French people denied the crucial role of Vichy. The problem here has not just been an understandable reluctance to dwell on the defeat — though this reluctance is something to which



Britons and Americans who were not occupied have been insufficiently sensitive. Another reason has been the number of guilty consciences in France. Right down to the 1980s, charges of wartime "administrative collaboration" surfaced to dog senior French officials and even government ministers.

Lately, however, there has been encouraging evidence of a successful effort to assimilate the experience of occupation and collaboration. One indicator is the meeting of historians in Paris this month to explore French responses to Vichy. It is sponsored by the government-financed Comité National de la Recherche

Scientifique — which could not have happened even 10 years ago.

French historians have taken a lead recently in confronting the many ignoble policies pursued during the war by French police, prefects and politicians. Jews in France were stripped of their property, excluded from public life, hunted and interned. More than a quarter were deported and died in Nazi extermination camps. Also persecuted by Pétain were communists, trade unionists and Freemasons.

The unsavoury Vichy interlude remains such a problem partly because the prejudices which it embodied survive among vocal sections of French society. Violent

chauvinism, racism and intolerance — the hallmarks of Vichy — reappeared in the early 1960s in the extreme right's campaign to keep Algeria French. Today, echoing the phobias of the 1940s, French writers are exercised by signs of demographic stagnation and an ageing population. Racist ugliness again raised its head last month in the desecration of Jewish cemeteries at Carpentras and Clichy-sur-Bois.

The modern racism of Jean-Marie Le Pen's National Front is anti-Muslim as well as anti-Semitic. Le Pen's cry of "France for the French" recalls the exclusionism of Vichy. There was a continuity between Vichyism and the *Algerie Française* diehards. Many of those who opposed de Gaulle over Algeria have now climbed aboard Le Pen's bandwagon. Nor is the left blameless: the 1980s saw French communists mount attacks on North African immigrants in Marseilles and in the Arab ghettos of suburban Paris.

Today National Front chauvinism and communist racism are aspects of a cynical populism that is sweeping French politics. The political extremes seek advantage from a disillusionment among voters with the allegedly corrupt system now held to run the Fifth Republic. In 1940, confronted by political opportunism, the French governing class lost its nerve and, with it, the Republic.

In 1990, decency in French politics is again menaced, this time from within, by racism and political violence. In contrast to 1940, however, today's mainstream political leaders show encouraging signs of solidarity in defence of liberty, equality and fraternity. President Mitterrand has set an example by taking to the streets and demonstrating his commitment to the republican ideals of tolerance and human rights. All major parties have condemned the Jewish cemetery desecrations.

Now action has to follow the fine words. Bringing the skeleton of Vichy out of the cupboard during this troubled anniversary will help the French better to understand their present politics as well as come to terms with their ambivalent wartime past.

The author is lecturer in French and British History, University of Southampton.

## A highly angered writer

A year after the massacre in Tiananmen Square, author Han Suyin — in London to promote her latest book — has fallen victim to a hoax by Chinese students angry at her failure to condemn the killings. She was surprised to read in the listings magazine *City Limits* that she is "too ill" to sign copies of her *Tigers and Butterflies* and to appear at the ICA. "I'm incredibly healthy," said an angry 74-year-old Suyin yesterday. "I am sure that Chinese students here, who perhaps do not have a sufficient regard for the truth, are running a campaign against me." Deborah Orr, deputy editor of *City Limits*, says the magazine has an attributable source, "but we prefer to protect it."

Suyin, best known for *A Many Splendoured Thing*, still refuses to comment on the massacre. "Media sensationalism, government proclamations and false witness will not influence my judgement. I am collecting evidence from both sides." That involves regular visits to China, where she lectures on democracy, from her home in Switzerland. She is now completing a 900-page biography of Mao Tse-tung's prime minister, Chou En-lai. He was a personal friend who, she believes, pioneered *perestroika* and *glasnost* back in the 1950s when Gorbachev was just a minor apparition.

Although her pro-nationalist first husband Tang Pao-huang — previously military attaché to London — was killed in the civil war in 1947, she says of the people

responsible for the Tiananmen Square massacre: "Whether you like them or not, the communists gave China 40 years of peace after 40 years of bloody civil war. Overturning the present government would only lead to carnage." If they had said that in Romania, Ceausescu would still be in power.

● *Marsh and Parsons, an upmarket West London estate agent, has made a strange choice of music to play waiting telephone callers — Scott Joplin's music from The Sting. "Inappropriate! We've never really thought about it," a spokesman says.*

## Hot cinders

Sebastian Coe may be beginning to wish he had never hung up his running shoes for politics. The Tory candidate for Falmouth and Camborne has just received an angry letter from John Carlisle, chairman of the Tory backbench sports committee, accusing him of snubbing it by turning down a speaking invitation. "I'm surprised," Carlisle said, "because it's a rare honour for a prospective candidate to be asked to address the committee, no matter how eminent he may be. I thought he would jump at the chance to talk to what we hope will be his future backbench colleagues." But Coe says: "I am only a candidate, not an MP, so it's not a question of snubbing the committee. And I no longer have a position in British sport."

The bad feeling between Coe and Carlisle — dubbed the member for Johannesburg North in some sporting circles — predates recent disagreements over sport-



## DIARY

ing links with South Africa. Coe points out that Carlisle was one of the loudest voices urging him to boycott the Moscow Olympics in 1980 because of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. He ignored the advice, and is mighty glad he did. It was the year he won the first of his two Olympic gold medals.

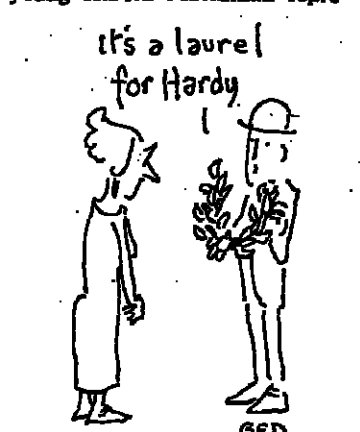
## Out of spin

With Leonid Zamyatin due in the not too distant future to return to Moscow, speculation is rife on his successor as Soviet ambassador to London. Soviet-watchers suggest the job will most likely go to the career-diplomat Vladimir Petrovsky, now a deputy minister at the ministry of foreign affairs. Genadi Gerasimov, the suave "spin doctor" famed for his one-liners who is doing his bit at the Washington summit, was apparently considered. In many ways he would be a logical successor to Zamyatin, who was Kremlin head of information under Brezhnev. But the fact that the spin doctor will not be coming to London suggests that London has slipped

significantly in the diplomatic ratings since the days when Mrs Thatcher talent-spotted Gorbachev as a man she could do business with, and the Russians saw Britain as having a key role in their international strategy.

## For all it's worth

Today's memorial service in Westminster Abbey to commemorate the 150th anniversary of Thomas Hardy's birth will be a far more modest affair than Hardy's funeral in the Abbey on January 16, 1928. On that occasion the pall-bearers included Rudyard Kipling, Sir James Barrie and George Bernard Shaw. The young Harold Macmillan repre-



sented his uncle, Hardy's publisher, Sir Frederick Macmillan. The present Lord Stockton, grandson of the former prime minister, will today lay a wreath; Hardy's violin will be played, and his poem "The Choirmaster's Burial" will be sung to Britten's setting. Hardy was corporally buried in

Westminster Abbey, but, despite a less-than-happy first marriage, his heart rests in Dorset, in the grave of his first wife, Emma.

His second wife, Florence, whom he married in 1914, guarded his reputation with tigerish zeal, while reveling in his glory. Sunday teatime at Max Gate, near Dorchester, became an institution which attracted local grandees, much to Florence's satisfaction. "The second Mrs Hardy was a bit of a snob," says Lord Stockton. "Once, a pretty marchioness whom she was entertaining leant towards Hardy and asked him to 'tell us about Tess'. Hardy turned to my great-great-uncle Fred and remarked in a broad Dorset accent, 'Lady bin askin' about Tess, Fred. She bin a good milch cow for you and I'."

## No, brother

I had to happen sooner or later. Labour MP George Galloway has been refused membership of the Groucho Club. About 30 applications to join the £275-a-year club beloved of media folk were approved at its last membership committee meeting, but Galloway's name commanded hardly any support. The club refuses to say why the MP for Glasgow Hillhead was not deemed a suitable addition to its 2,500-strong list of members, but women on the committee are known to have taken exception to his self-confessed lechery. Galloway was unavailable for comment, but would surely echo the words of Groucho Marx which gave rise to the club's name: "I would not want to belong to any club that would have me as a member."





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## WASHINGTON-ON-RHINE

One thing is abundantly clear, even before the end of the Washington summit. For either side to be content with a stand-off on German reunification and the future membership of Nato would be disastrous. For once a super-power summit between the United States and the Soviet Union has, lowering over it, the name of a third state with the capacity to unsettle anything they might decide. Such is the impact on world events of the prospect of a Germany reunited after 45 years.

Neither leader in Washington has doubted the importance of bridging their apparently irreconcilable differences on the alignment of a united Germany prior to the next round of "two plus four" talks. President Gorbachev's immediate concern is that his domestic public has been told for decades that Nato is an aggressive alliance which Moscow now wishes to see replaced by an "integrated European security system". The very name of Germany evokes the most deep-rooted suspicion, and any concession to Germany might well be at the expense of Mr Gorbachev's popularity.

President Bush has accepted as a starting point that the West must refashion its core argument that German membership of Nato has been a stabilizing factor in Europe, and is therefore in the Soviet interest. The American strategy has been to combine guarantees over unity with promises to upgrade dialogue on European security within the 35-nation Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE). This undoubtedly reflects West German advice that a breakthrough over Nato membership could be achieved only if the summit moved beyond Nato to set German unity in the context of "the creation of a new Europe". The US appears to have resisted German liking for sweeping generalizations, wisely since Mr Gorbachev needs more than exorbitant phrases to take home to his general staff.

Both leaders have been out to dispel the impression that Germany's fate is being decided behind its back (much has been learnt since the 1986 Reykjavik summit). In public, they may confine themselves when the summit ends tomorrow to enunciating a few basic principles or, still more cautiously, agree only to intensify their consultations.

But the makings of a deal are in the air that would meet Soviet security concerns, avoid the appearance of singling Germany out for special treatment, and give Moscow an incentive to conclude the stalled negotiations on reducing

Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE). The centre-piece would be agreement, as the Soviet Union has demanded, on limits to the size of united Germany's armed forces, but only as an appendix to Europe-wide reductions. That could be coupled with faster East-West negotiations on short-range nuclear missiles, German guarantees to honour its existing borders, a Nato pledge not to station troops in East Germany and transitional arrangements for the Soviet forces in East Germany, including money to maintain them and pay for their eventual withdrawal.

The Soviet Union would in turn have to concede that Germany would be part of Nato's unified military command, with Nato forces stationed on West German soil. The difficulty for Mr Gorbachev is that an agreement which leaves Nato forces in place while tolerating only a temporary Soviet military presence will inevitably be presented by conservatives in the Soviet establishment as an "unequal treaty", tantamount to surrender.

However, if as seems possible the United States were to sugar the pill with guarantees that a united Germany will store no nuclear or chemical weapons — a pledge which would go far further than confirming Germany's non-nuclear status — the implications for Nato would be radical. Next month's Nato summit in London would then have to proceed on three new defence assumptions.

The first, already accepted, is that the doctrine of "flexible response" to an attack, which allows for the early first use of nuclear weapons, is dead. The second would be that forward defence from German bases is no longer viable. Third, while the non-nuclear formula may not strictly imply the neutralization of Germany, it in effect neutralizes the remaining Nato forces stationed there.

Mr Gorbachev would thus be able to claim a considerable diplomatic victory. Nor would the price to the West be as high as might appear. The collapse of the Warsaw Pact reduces the West's dependence on withstanding attack at short notice. Strategy can now be based on a longer lead time, including time to mobilize in response to some renewed future Soviet build-up.

Early acceptance of the magnitude of these changes for Nato would be a useful outcome of Mr Bush's effort to help the Soviet Union live with a united Germany. Few summits would then have offered the world so dramatic a step down the road to lasting peace.

## TRUTH FROM THE DEEP

The Government's decision to withhold from public gaze some of the more commercially sensitive aspects of water privatization always raised the suspicion that it had something improper to hide. Yesterday's leak to *The Times* by the Friends of the Earth of Whitehall documents on dirty beaches shows that it did. The documents indicate that ministers and officials allowed their obligation to clean up Britain's beaches, under supervision from Brussels, to be overridden by their obsession with the successful privatization of the water industry.

The documents provide further justification for last week's news of the European Commission's decision to prosecute Britain in the European Court for failing to comply with EC directives on the quality of sea bathing waters. The commission had given member states 10 years to comply with the 1975 standards. Its efforts to gain compliance from the United Kingdom have been fended off with vague promises that some time in the future something would be done.

The Commission was cynical about these protestations of good intentions, hence the prosecution. We now know the Government was being cynical in its evasions.

In 1986, the period to which the leaked documents refer, the Government was clearly trying to persuade itself that the EC was being fussy about sewage contamination of coastal water. It was particularly irritated by the impact of the 1975 bathing water directive because the price of meeting it was virtually unquantifiable.

This unquantifiability was embarrassing just when the market needed to have confidence boosted in the commercial viability of a privatized water industry. Yet even in 1986, an

unnamed official is recorded as remarking, "In spite of the medical advice that there is generally no harm, it is hard to defend a situation in which sewage, often raw, is discharged near such beaches..."

The operation of a free market, including the initial flotation of water shares, demands full and accurate information. The existence of the 1975 directive was no secret, nor was the fact that big investment was going to be needed to comply with it sooner or later. But those who bought water shares are entitled to feel indignant that some of the information they needed was being kept from them.

However fussy ministers may have felt the EC was being in 1986, they and the water industry can take no such comfort now. The United Nations Environment Programme published a study earlier this year which demonstrated authoritatively that sewage contamination of sea bathing water is dangerous to public health. The chairman of the group of scientists advising UNEP, Professor Alasdair McIntyre of Aberdeen University, said it was no longer accepted that harmful organisms were quickly neutralized by sea water.

Had the Government known this in 1986, would it have acted differently, or would the political and commercial priority of a successful privatization still have prevailed? Small wonder Friends of the Earth and others are cynical about statements on pollution from the Department of the Environment (and, hovering as a black demon behind it, the Treasury). Only by its alacrity in responding to external pressure, Britain's legal obligations and the new scientific knowledge will the Government convince a sceptical public of its good faith.

## VERRAY PARFET SOLICITORS

A firm of solicitors is shortly to be rewarded by the British Standards Institute with that scrupulous body's imprimatur. The famous "kite mark" will henceforth be found on all the products of the designated firm. Moreover, several other legal firms are reported to be close to the level of excellence that will enable them, too, to hang out the precious shingle. You, sir, your uncle's will has been proved? You will see the unmistakable sign in the top right-hand corner. You, madam, your divorce has come through? Look out for the reassuring symbol on the parchment. You, gentlemen, your company's flotation went off without a hitch? The kite mark is your assurance that you are dealing only with the best.

What is not entirely clear is how the BSI measures the quality. With a pair of scissors, say, you know where you are. If they cut cleanly, are well-balanced and stay sharp there is no problem: on goes the precious rune. But by what criteria do you test a firm of solicitors?

Take the ancient City firm of Dubbel, Dubbel, Toyle and Trubbel, together with their friendly rivals Fyre, Berne and Corldren-Bubbel. Neither, it may be supposed, steals the clients' money. Nor, presumably, will a client wishing to dispute a parking-ticket shortly afterwards find himself in the dock pleading guilty to 187 offences ranging from armed burglary to wandering abroad without visible means of support. But beyond that?

Let us see; the pencils have to be sharp, and the volumes of Copinger on Copyright, Chitty on Contracts and Charlesworth on Negligence a well-thumbed. The first thing each day is a parade to ensure that every member of the staff

displays a sympathetic mien, because defendants are always dealt with in the morning. A parallel afternoon inspection of grim and tenacious (but optimistic) features, is equally essential, because plaintiffs are seen pm.

The BSI's inspector, if he is worth his salt, will surely insist on seeing all the workings of the firm. He, to say nothing of prospective clients, should therefore be taken through a room in which members of the staff can be heard saying into telephones things like "Don't worry, Mr Fayed, this firm has the friendliest relations with Mr Rowland" (or vice versa, as circumstances require). Other partners might be heard saying, in worldly tones, "Is it my turn to deal with the Royal Family's business this week, John, or yours?" An office-boy should be audibly rebuffed for letting the sum in the petty-cash box fall below £100,000. The office cat must be a prize Russian Blue, and the mice it catches white.

Confidence is everything. What better strategy, then, than to dress the office up to the nines when the BSI men are coming? The inspectors are in no position to judge the nature of the advice the firm gives, and even if they drop in on the High Court they will be little the wiser, apart from the fact that if the firm loses the barrister will certainly be blamed.

The BSI is pushing the frontiers out ever further; after the solicitors, they are planning a kite mark accolade for cleaning companies. A word to any such organization under scrutiny: be sure to squeeze the chamois-leather as loudly as you can.

## Industrial peace the Labour way

From the Secretary of State for Employment

Sir, Your leader (May 26) stated that Labour's latest policy document successfully met "at least half" of the tests I set out before its publication. In fact, its details reveal that all the tests have been failed, most notably in the following respects.

I asked whether Labour would bring back secondary action and the flying picket. They would.

I asked whether employers would still have the right to take legal action against industrial action called without a pre-strike ballot. The document gives no such right.

I asked whether employers would be able, as now, to get an immediate court injunction to halt an unlawful strike. They would not. The document makes it clear that unions would be the only group in society against whom an *ex parte* injunction could not be sought — stripping the courts of a vital means to enforce the law.

I asked whether the unions would have the privilege of having cases against them heard by their own special court. They would.

Most importantly, I asked whether the courts would still be able to sequester the assets of unions which defied court orders. Looking to the future states that "Legislation will prevent the total sequestration of a trade union's income and assets in a way which paralyses the union".

No other group in society is given the extraordinary guarantee that if it breaks the law no penalty will be inflicted on it by the courts may so much as inconvenience it. This Labour proposal above all others encourages law-breaking and places the unions above the law. It renders the laws governing the trade unions unenforceable and therefore makes wholly irrelevant even those legal provisions which Labour promise to retain.

In one respect, however, I do admit that the document surprised me. I would never have anticipated that in such a definitive statement of Labour policy for the 1990s there would be not one single mention of the right of trade union members to elect their leaders by secret ballot.

That extraordinary omission shows how tight are the apron strings which still bind the Labour Party to its trade union paymasters, and how damaging a Labour Government would be not only for industrial relations in this country, but also for the rights of individual trade unionists.

Yours faithfully,  
MICHAEL HOWARD,  
Minister of Employment,  
Caxton House,  
Tothill Street, SW1.  
May 31.

## Language of terrorists

From Mr Jonathan Miles

Sir, I resent the implication by the use of the word "innocent" in respect of civilian IRA victims that British army personnel are somehow more legitimate targets to be gunned down by terrorists (May 29). This is to use the terrorists' own language.

The same careless use of words frequently occurs in respect of reports about the Belfast hostage in Britain, Brian Keenan, who is an Irish passport holder. It is sometimes implied that British and American passport holders are less "innocent" in such situations than nationals of certain other countries.

Yours faithfully,  
JONATHAN MILES,  
13 Wellington Road,  
Dublin, Ireland.  
May 29.

## Frumpy frocks

From Mrs Aline L. Gunn of Banniskirk

Sir, How sadly I learn that lady Glyndebourne goes now wear short, frumpy frocks (letter, May 26). One of the headier pleasures of a night at this opera used to be the faint smell of mothballs rising from the stalls, heralding the parade of long, frumpy frocks in the supper interval. But, alas, perhaps even the mothball is now a thing of the past?

Yours faithfully,  
ALINE L. GUNN of BANNISKIRK,  
1 Bernersmeade,  
61 Blackheath Park,  
Blackheath, SE3.  
May 27.

## All at sea

From Commander Peter Hore

Sir, Philip Howard (article, May 25) correctly identifies that most naval vessels are ships and not boats. The former word has higher value, which is why the heroines of *Dunkirk* pictured on the front page have the honorific "the little ships" and not "little boats" which would be somewhat pejorative.

It is perhaps by extension of this usage that submarines were called boats by "skimmers", i.e., the surface navy. At the beginning of this century submarines were labelled ships — that is pirate ships. Nowadays in official correspondence and increasingly in speech there is a tendency again to class submarines as ships. Perhaps aware of their importance within the Fleet and the size of their vessels, submariners themselves often prefer "ship" to "boat".

When submarines were all unquestionably boats they usually needed to secure alongside a mothership or parent base between patrols. This gives rise to an unusual usage which Philip Howard may not have recorded. When a submarine leaves his vessel he

## Cleaner air and the years ahead

From Mr Peter Simpson

Sir, Without action to prevent it total emission of carbon dioxide in the UK would, by the year 2005, increase by 30 per cent to a level of 820 million tonnes annually. The Prime Minister's proposal (report, May 26) to ensure that emissions are no higher in 2005 than today is formidable. This would require the avoidance of the equivalent of 23 per cent of current emissions, amounting to 145 million tonnes annually.

Gas-fired combined-cycle power plant contributes to reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, but only by about 55 per cent for each kWh (kilowatt hour) of electricity produced.

Studies by the UK Department of Energy and the CEBG have shown that it is technically feasible to meet at least 20 per cent of the current UK electricity demand of 270 TWh (terawatt hours a year) using modern wind turbines. If the wind-generated electricity substituted for coal-fired generation this would reduce annual CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by about 54 million tonnes.

With the further Government support that this technology merits, at a fraction of the cost of nuclear energy-related research and development, wind turbines can, without delay, begin to cut CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. In particular the Government should extend support to renewable-energy independent generators in Scotland and Northern Ireland, where most of the resources exist. At present this support is limited to England and Wales.

Yours faithfully,  
P. G. SIMPSON  
(Member of Council),  
British Wind Energy Association,  
4, Hamilton Place, W1.  
May 27.

From Professor M. W. Thompson

Sir, Following the confirmation last week that global warming is a fact, one may ask why Britain bears the brunt of criticism in Europe whilst on the other hand the French emit the smallest amount of carbon dioxide per unit of energy consumption? They also enjoy the cheapest electricity in Europe.

The French can thank their Government for pursuing a consistent policy of installing nuclear power plants. Our own Government is in the embarrassing position of deciding to abandon

the latest nuclear programme last autumn and now being unable to offer any reduction in carbon-dioxide emission from fossil fuel.

Having once been pre-eminent in nuclear technology it is tragic that vacillating policy by successive governments has put Britain at a real disadvantage economically and environmentally. Please will someone think again?

Yours faithfully,  
MICHAEL THOMPSON,  
The Athenaeum,  
Pall Mall, SW1.  
May 29.

From Rear-Admiral

H. C. N. GOODHART,  
Church House,  
Uffculme,  
Cullumpton, Devon.  
May 29.

Sir, In the information which has recently emerged about the greenhouse effect, power stations are quoted as the biggest contributor.

This seems to be ducking the issue. What matters is the end-user of the power and what are the alternatives. We need to know, at the very least the domestic/industry split and what proportion is used for transport.

There is the question of how much electricity is used for space heating. Here there are obvious alternatives in the form of gas or oil and I suspect we would be astonished at the relative contributions to global warming for a given amount of heating from these three sources.

There is going to be a need for a wide consensus on action to deal with the problem. Informed public debate is an essential prerequisite to this consensus.

Yours faithfully,  
H. C. N. GOODHART,  
Church House,  
Uffculme,  
Cullumpton, Devon.  
May 29.

From the Secretary General of the

National Society for Clean Air  
Sir, Sir Hugh Rossi (report, May 29) is mistaken in attributing acid rain to tall chimneys. All the latter do is to dilute the concentration of acids in the immediate vicinity of the emitter. Depending on the weather their impact at greater ranges — where the plume comes down to ground level — becomes progressively negligible.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN LANGSTON,  
Secretary General,  
National Society for Clean Air,  
136 North Street,  
Brighton, East Sussex.  
May 29.

## Legal charges

From the Secretary-General of the Law Society

Sir, I hope Mr Dunlop (May 24) will eventually be satisfied with the service from his solicitor. As far as overdue accounts are concerned, unless the solicitor has to take court proceedings to obtain payment, interest can only be charged on accounts which do not relate to court work, and then only after the solicitor has reminded the client of the right to have the amount of the bill independently assessed by the Law Society.

Mr Dunlop's solicitor may be wise to ask for funds in advance to cover a barrister's opinion, since a solicitor is personally liable to pay a barrister even if the client is less inclined to do so.

However, if a client does pay money on account of costs, a solicitor's obligation to pay interest on the money held will depend on the size of the sum and the length of time for which it is held, and any agreement he has made with the client.

Yours etc.,  
J. W. HAYES,  
Secretary-General,  
The Law Society,  
113 Chancery Lane, WC2.  
May 25.

From Dr John Cleobury

Sir, Mrs Dunlop has a point. In 1985 I was asked for a medical report on a client by a firm of solicitors. After regular promptings I received payment yesterday. I still await settlement of a similar account arising in 1983.

My bewilderment is unaccompanied by apology, by acknowledgement of inflationary erosion amounting to around 30 per cent over five years or by offer of compensation.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN CLEOBURY,  
Croft House,  
Lower Hardres,  
Canterbury, Kent.  
May 25.

## Living language

From Dr Denis Cushman

Sir, Mr A. M. Mackintosh (May 24) is doing very badly harm to English in suggesting that "for whom you are writing" would be pedantic. Language must be allowed to live, and while few would dispute that a preposition is the wrong word to finish a sentence with — no matter who you are writing to — it is the language of today to say "Where have you come from?" rather than "Whence came you?"

But while rules may be broken — such as the rule that would forbid a sentence to start with "but" — language should remain comely, whether written or spoken. "For whom" sounds sweetly to my ear, as I suggest it should to many.

I am, Sir, your semite but syntactical servant,  
DENIS CUSHMAN,  
4 Derwent Road,  
Cullercoats, Tyne and Wear.  
May 24.

From Captain A. B. Sainsbury, RNR

Sir, Mr Howard's entertaining piece today, distinguishing "in" from "on" at sea, does not mention the traditional difference between the naval and the mercantile usages. The Navy is responsible for the phrase "in its ships"; the Merchant Navy has settled for "on its vessels", on which passengers travel.

The current infelicity whereby individuals, committees and corporate bodies claim to be taking ideas, notions or suggestions on board is to be deprecated.

Yours faithfully,  
A. B. SAINSBURY,  
5 The Close,  
Heath Lane, SE3.  
May 25.

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Yours faithfully,  
JOHN CLEOBURY,  
Croft House,  
Lower Hardres,  
Canterbury, Kent.  
May 25.

## A banking question

From Mr Anthony Simpson, MEP

for Northamptonshire and South Leicestershire (European Democrat (Conservative))  
Sir, The siting of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development in London, providing 1,000 jobs (report, May 21) is very welcome. However, I hope that British employees will not be subject to the same discrimination as they are at the European Community's Jet establishment at Culham, in Oxfordshire.

There, while non-British employees are treated as European Community civil servants, their British counterparts are seconded from the Atomic Energy Authority and receive a considerably lower salary for equivalent work.

I hope this is not a precedent for the bank.

Yours faithfully,  
ANTHONY SIMPSON,  
Bassets, Great Glen,  
Leicestershire.  
May 24.

From Mr Peter Scott

Sir, My namesake, but not a kinsman, was clearly joking. The name he gave "Nessie", Nessiteras Rhombopteryx (report, May 28), was obviously an anagram for "monster hoax by Sir Peter S".

Yours faithfully,  
PETER SCOTT,  
7 Sinclair Gardens, W14.  
May 30.

## Traffic threat to York Minster

From Lord Coggan

Sir, As one who was Archbishop of York for 13 years (1961-74), I have an abiding concern for the city and its minster.

That great church is visited every year by over two million people of all faiths and some of none. All of them must cross Deangate at least once to visit the minster, one of the great shrines of Christendom. It is important that they should be able to do so in a spirit of tranquillity and reverence and that, when they leave, they are not immediately plunged into a swathe of traffic and the commercial life of the city. It is of equal importance that the daily services in the minster should not be conducted against the persistent background noise of traffic.

Deangate, which runs along the whole length of the south side of the minster, was created early this century, when the Dean and Chapter gave the land to the York Corporation to provide a road for the very limited horse traffic that there was then. Eighty-five years later 10,000 cars and lorries a day use it.

For the last 10 years the Dean and Chapter have been pressing the local authorities to close the road, culminating some 15 months ago in its experimental closure. A decision as to whether the closure is to be made permanent will be taken within the coming weeks.

I am not competent to judge, nor would I wish to comment upon, the traffic implications of the closure on other parts of the city. The sole purpose of this letter is to ask that, when the final decision is made, the above factors will be fully taken into account.

Yours sincerely,  
DONALD COGGAN,  
28 Lions Hall,  
35 South Street,  
Winchester, Hampshire.  
May 29.

## Quarrying at Stowe

From Mr George Walden, MP for

Buckingham (Conservative)  
Sir, As an opponent of the projected gravel pit near Stowe School, and the MP for the area, I welcome the prominence you have given the subject (letters, May 12, 24, 29) which may have helped to persuade the Secretary of State for the Environment to instruct the county council yesterday to postpone consideration of the application until he has had time to consider it fully.

Important as the impact on Stowe School is, however, the issue goes wider. In a matter of months, there have been applications for large-scale gravel pits and/or waste tips on the very doorsteps of no less than four villages in my constituency — Great Brickhill, Birtown, Mursley, and Chackmorton/Stowe.

If granted, they would destroy the environment of thousands of villagers — one reason why I proposed during the recent debate on the Environment Bill that such pits and tips should in future not be allowed within a statutory distance from inhabited areas.

Yours sincerely,  
GEORGE WALDEN,  
House of Commons.  
May 30.

## Signs at summit

From Mr Idris Griffiths

Sir, I have recently spent some time walking in the mountains, during which I never missed an opportunity to locate Ordnance Survey triangulation stations, if at all possible.

These stations can be very reassuring to walkers, indeed akin to highbushes to sailors. Due to their positions, most are subjected to greater severe weather conditions and all those I visited were in need of a coat of paint — nothing more, just white paint. When seen from a distance they stand out in white and look superb.

I hope that perhaps the Ordnance Survey, justly famous for the quality of their maps, have the necessary resources to restore their former glory.

Yours faithfully,  
IDRIS GRIFFITHS,  
61 Wensell Road,  
Rhiwina,  
Cardiff, Glamorgan.  
May 24.

## Time's winged chariot

From Mr G. T. Manning

Sir, Wealden District Council has sent us a poll tax newsletter in which the following appears: "What does elderly mean? — Women aged 60 and men aged 65."

I have nearly 18 months to go before I become elderly but my wife, who is some four years my junior, is already there.

Poor old thing.  
Yours faithfully,  
G. T. MANNING,  
20 West Close,  
Polegate,  
East Sussex.

## Underwater clue

From Mr Peter Scott

Sir, My namesake, but not a kinsman, was clearly joking. The name he gave "Nessie", Nessiteras Rhombopteryx (report, May 28), was obviously an anagram for "monster hoax by Sir Peter S".

Yours faithfully,  
PETER SCOTT,  
7 Sinclair Gardens, W14.  
May 30.











## SATURDAY TELEVISION &amp; RADIO

## BBC 1

- 6.40 Open University: Pure Maths — Isomorphisms 7.05 Community and Order
- 7.30 Playdays (1) 7.50 Muppet Babies (1)
- 8.15 The 8.15 from Manchester. The entertainment magazine programme for the young this week features the pop group Yell and Terry Jones, of the Monty Python team and Ripping Yarns. Includes a special report on homelessness
- 11.00 Film: Peace Is Our Profession (1972) starring Jack Gling. Another in the long line of Leslie films in which the amazing dog rescues and redeems all sorts of people and animals, this time a rare show goose, a pet poodle and a crippled boy. Leslie is assisted by a US air force chaplain. Guaranteed to pull the heart-strings. Directed by Ezra Stone 12.27 Weather
- 12.30 Grandstand introduced by Bob Wilson. The line-up is (subject to alteration): 12.35 Football. A look at the teams in Group F of the World Cup who include England and the Republic of Ireland; 1.00 News; 1.05 and 4.15 Golf: action from round three of the Dunhill British Masters; 1.40, 2.10 and 3.10 Racing from Lingfield Park; 1.55 and 4.45 Show Jumping from Hickstead; the CSIO Nations Cup meeting; 2.20 and 3.25 Football: live coverage of England's final World Cup warm-up game against Tunisia
- 5.05 News with Moira Stuart. Weather 5.15 Regional News and Sport
- 5.20 Stay Tuned! Tony Robinson introduces cartoons featuring Pepe Le Pew, Foghorn Leghorn and Barney Bear, among others

- 5.45 The Flying Doctors: Hopscotch. Understanding Australian medical drama. This week a pregnant mother arrives in town. When her husband runs away, everyone is sympathetic, giving donations to her and her family. But is she all that she seems to be? (Ceebeak, Wales: Youth Session)
- 6.30 That's Showbusiness. A new series of the quiz in which stars are asked to answer questions on showbusiness. Kenny Everett and Gloria Hunniford are the team captains. Joining them tonight are Simon Bowman, Carmen Silvera, Steve Wright and Jessica Martin. Mike Smith asks the questions. (Ceebeak)
- 7.00 Takeover Bid. Bruce Forsyth's forgettable new game show. (Ceebeak)



Les Dawson hosts the talent contest (7.30pm)

- 7.30 Opportunity Knocks — The Final. The television talent contest reaches its final night with 10 acts to choose from and you and I invited to do the choosing. Viewer power is part of the attraction of the show, as is comparing your fancy with that of the majority. Tonight's transmission is going out live, which is how it should be, giving an extra edge to

performances that have to be right first time. The weakness of Opportunity Knocks is a certain sameness of quality. The acts have been carefully sifted to exclude any that might delight by their sheer badness. Equally, there are few that stand out as obvious star material. You feel that most of these aspiring entertainers will never be heard of again. But there have been notable exceptions over the years, not least the show's current host, Les Dawson. There is only one comedian on tonight's bill, which is dominated by male singers. Presumably it is easier to sing songs than to tell jokes

- 8.30 Film: North Sea Hijack (1979). Adventure thriller starring Roger Moore, James Mason and Anthony Perkins. An expert underwater saboteur engages on the most dangerous mission of his eccentric career when explosives are planted on an oil rig by hijackers demanding £25 million to be paid within 24 hours. Boyer Owen stuff, indifferently acted by a strong looking cast. Directed by Andrew V. McLellan. (Ceebeak)
- 10.05 Opportunity Knocks — Your Verdict. The winner of this year's Opportunity Knocks is announced.
- 10.40 News with Nicholas Witchell, sport and weather
- 11.00 Paramount City. Acts featured tonight include True Image, Paul Merton, Helen Lederer, Curtis and Ismael and Steve Coogan
- 12.00 Film: A Distant Summer (1982) starring Tom Skerritt, Ian Gilmour and (for the second time this evening) James Mason. An unsentimental drama about a psychotic arsonist trying to torch a newly-built Australian summer holiday resort. Directed by Quentin Mason
- 12.55am Weather

## ITV LONDON

- 6.00 TV-am begins with News read by Susan Grant followed by Good Morning Moments presented by Ulrika Jonsson; 7.00 News followed by WAG 90, Children's entertainment introduced by Michaela Strachan and Mike Brogan
- 9.25 Ghost Train. Children's early-morning wake-up, with special guests pop group Fuzzbox and Craig McLachlan who plays Henry in Neighbours
- 11.30 The ITV Chart Show. The Vintage Video slot is filled by Natalie Cole
- 12.30 Huddell's Farm and his Friends. Lighthearted adventures of Mark Twain's young heroes starring Ian Tracey
- 1.00 News with Nicholas Owen. Weather 1.05 LWT News and weather 1.10 Disney Cartoon. Gooty in Freewayphobia
- 1.30 International Schoolboy Football. England versus The Netherlands from Wembley. While the grown-ups are getting ready for the test thing to kick off in Italy, the next generation of mega-million stars have just started shaving. Today, England's youngsters take a day off their paper rounds to take on their Dutch peers. Ian St John and Jimmy Greaves are your pundits, while Brian Moore describes the action
- 3.55 Coronation Street. Omnibus edition
- 4.50 News and weather 4.55 LWT News and weather

- 5.05 The Incredible Hulk: The Psychic. Somewhat silly television version of a cartoon strip that never took itself seriously (1)
- 6.00 Cannon and Ball's Casino. Bobby and Tommy, whose humorous pedigree is strictly Opportunity Knocks, pun away between music from Paul Young, Fuzzbox and Rob Newman
- 6.45 Wayne Dobson — A Kind of Magic. Wayne Dobson with conjuring tricks, jockey patter and the lovely Linda Lusardi. Guests include Richard Coombs, Wendy Millward and Lauren O'Leary
- 7.15 The Two of Us: Trust. Amiable domestic comedy. Nicholas Lyndhurst and Janet Dibley as Ashley and Elaine trust each other completely, but proving it isn't so easy (1)
- 7.45 Murder, She Wrote: The Grand Old Lady. Angela Lansbury is the crime writer whose life is blighted by people perpetually dying around her. Tonight, after a veteran writer passes away, Jessica Reminisce about a real mystery that happened 50 years ago
- 8.40 News with Nicholas Owen, sport and weather
- 8.55 LWT News and weather
- 9.00 Taggart — The Movie: Double Jeopardy. Feature-length episode from the life of the tough Glasgow cop. An apparent suicide turns out not to be so straightforward when Taggart and Sgt. Galt investigate. Mark McManus and James McFadden fill the starring roles with aplomb (1). (Oracle)

- 10.30 World Championship Boxing. Paul Hodgkinson versus Marco Villaseca from the G-Mex Centre in Manchester. Another British hopeful tries to bridge the gap between hype and fame. This time, however, he has some credentials, being European champion, and his Mexican opponent, while tough, is not out of the top drawer. At stake is the WBC Featherweight title, so expect a few big names at ringside
- 11.30 Film: The Specialist (1970). Clint Eastwood is a badly wounded Unionist soldier who finds shelter in a Confederate girls' school at the end of the civil war. His presence proves to be a disturbing one. Teasing melodramatic study, with Geraldine Page heading the supporting cast. Directed by Don Siegel, who went on to make Eastwood's Dirty Harry
- 12.55am Film: Take My Life (1947, b/w). An opera star believes her husband is having an affair with a woman who is then found murdered. Will she be able to clear her husband's name? Sub-Hitchcock thriller, starring Hugh Williams and Greta Gynt, and directed by Ronald Neame
- 2.45 Legwork: Peaches. Beautiful private detective Claire McCarron investigates a car thief with a contract out on him
- 3.45 Family Mad. Late-night entertainment
- 4.00 The Hit Man and Her. Pete Waterman and Michaela Strachan go clubbing with the disco crowd
- 5.00 ITN Morning News with Christabel King. Ends at 6.00

## BBC 2

- 6.50 Open University: Maths — Catastrophe Theory 7.45 Social Problems and Social Welfare — Why Care? 7.40 Money Grows on Trees? 8.05 Statistics — Testing for Telepathy 8.30 The Nervous System 8.55 The American Political Process 9.20 Physics — Magnetism 9.45 Education — Aesthetics 10.10 Discovering Chemistry 10.35 From Coal to Colour 11.00 The History of Mathematics 11.25 The 19th-century Novel: What Maisie Knew 11.50 Design or Decline 12.15 Behind the Annual Report 12.40 Nuclear Weapons: Capability 1.05 Sociology: Caste and Class 1.30 Modern Art — Matisse 1.55 Scenes from Dr Faustus by Christopher Marlowe 2.20 Third World Studies: The Plough and the Hoe
- 2.45 Mahabharat. Episode eight of the 91-part dramatization of the Indian epic poem. In this episode, Krishna and Arjuna fight the final battle of the war
- 3.25 Film: Run for the Sun (1956). Ponderous thriller starring Richard Widmark, Trevor Howard and Jane Greer. A journalist and a novelist crash in the South American jungle and find themselves in the hands of a trio of nasty ex-Nazi war criminals. Directed by Roy Boulton
- 5.05 International Golf. Harry Carpenter introduces live action from the closing stages of the third round of the Dunhill British Masters at Duke's Course, Woburn
- 6.00 Show Jumping. The Dubai Events' Special from Hickstead. Introduced by David Vine
- 7.00 NewsView with Moira Stuart and Lynette Lithgow. Weather

- 7.45 Tales from Prague: My Country. The first of four programmes tonight celebrating the artistic achievements of the Czechs, in good times and bad. The cycle of symphonic poems that is My Country was written as a statement of nationalism by Bedrich Smetana in the mid 19th century, when Czechoslovakia was part of the Austrian Empire. This performance by the Czech Philharmonic Orchestra was recorded on the opening day of the Prague Spring music festival, and is given added symbolism by Rafael Kubelik, who had been in exile from his native country for over 40 years before returning to conduct the piece. Simultaneous broadcast in stereo on Radio 3
- 9.10 Jan Svankmajer: The Animator of Prague. A profile of the internationally renowned animator, best known for his recent version of Alice in Wonderland. Besides showing him at work in his studio, this film also traces the development of his newest work, The Death of Stalinism in Bohemia, which will be shown at the end of the programme
- 9.45 Kids from Farnu. Usefully supplementing the cinema strand of BBC2's Czech season, Paul Pawlikowski's documentary covers the state of the industry before and after the Soviet invasion of 1968. Many of the young directors who gained national and then international fame during the short-lived Prague spring trained together at the Farnu school and worked on each other's films. In a burst of talent remarkable for a small country, the movement produced such gems as The Man from Nowhere and Closely Observed Trains, which still come up as fresh

- as ever. After 1968 there was a perking of the ways. Some directors (Milos Forman, Jan Pater) went to Hollywood, others stayed and tried to make the best of things. There were difficulties either way, although Forman has twice won Oscars. The programme includes the thoughts of Forman, Pater and one who stuck it out, Jiri Menzel
- 10.30 Film: The Party and the Guests (1955 b/w). Jean Vignsky and Jan Kusek. A comedy about a group of friends who are invited to a party in a remote village. A comedy picnic in the woods is hijacked by a smiling bully who claims to want to make everyone happy, but will not tolerate anyone leaving his lakeside banquet. Directed by Jan Némec
- 11.40 The 1966 World Cup Final. The greatest day in English football came against the West Germans on a summer's day at Wembley nearly a quarter of a century ago. This is how it happened in its entirety. Best to enjoy it while you can, for England have not come within a mile of winning anything since. Kenneth Wolstenholme's commentary is a delight. Ends at 12.00am

## CHANNEL 4

- 6.00 Early Morning: Comic Book 7.30 International Times — World News 8.00 Trans World Sport 9.00 Channel 4 Racing: The Morning Line
- 9.25 Australian Rules Football presented by Steve Rodwell
- 10.30 Consuming Passions. Ex-diplomat Andrew Johnstone is devoted to creating wonderful animated objects. With signing and subtitles for the hard of hearing (1)
- 11.00 Check Out. Consumer affairs series (1. Oracle)
- 11.30 Wagon Train (b/w). Vintage Western series starring Ward Bond
- 12.25 19.40: Television Interventions. Some more stunning images to celebrate Glasgow, 1990's European City of Culture
- 12.30 California Off Beat. A series which attempts to explain why those living on America's West Coast are so wacky (and tacky)
- 1.00 Equinox: Road Test (1. Oracle)
- 2.00 Film: Moulin Rouge (1953). Jose Ferrer stars in a fictional biopic about the artist Toulouse-Lautrec. The beautifully evocative beginning, with wonderful images of 19th-century Montmartre, is not sustained although the director John Huston continues to pull out the occasional striking image
- 4.15 Report from the Aleutians. John Huston and his father, Walter, narrate this Second World War propaganda film, which examines the lives and bombing missions of American troops. Filmed on the remote Aleutian Islands in the North Pacific, it is a compelling study of war and the comradeship it creates (1)
- 5.05 Brookside Omnibus (1. Oracle)
- 6.00 Right To Reply presented by Brian Hayes
- 6.30 Gallery. George Melly hosts this popular art panel game. Today's celebrity guests are actor Chris

- Elison and The Listener's art critic, Richard Cork
- 7.00 The World This Week presented by Michael Nicholson and Sheena McDonald. Followed by Weather
- 8.00 Kingdom of the Deep: Krakatoa — The Day That Shook the World. The latest delve into the Angles television wildlife archive comes up with Dieter Plage's remarkable film about Anak Krakatoa, successor to the island volcano between Java and Sumatra which blew itself to pieces in 1883. The blast was heard 3,000 miles away and caused the deaths of 36,000 people, many of them Chinese. Plage shows how Anak ("son of") Krakatoa rose from the sea to fill the crater left by the 1883 explosion and traces the movements of plants and animals across the sea to colonize the new island. His striking footage includes helicopter shots from 2,000 feet up as well as film taken 120 feet down in the sea among white-tailed sharks. His camera also captured a small and previously unknown fish, which ingeniously outwits its would-be predator, the Javan kingfisher, by swimming upside down and using a floating leaf as a hide
- 9.00 thirtysomething. American comedy drama centred on a group of neurotic yuppies. (Oracle)
- 10.00 Film: Tenebris de Soirée (1986). Bertrand Blier's black comedy takes one of the oldest situations in drama, the love triangle, and treats it in a way that would probably have been impossible in the cinema even 20 years ago. The treatment is uncompromising and the comedy very black indeed. It can be a difficult film to take, unless you are prepared to go at least part of the way with Blier's dark and trenchant vision. Antoine (Michael Blanc), middle-aged and balding, and the younger Monique (Mou-Mou), share a caravan and live a hand-to-mouth existence. Enter the

- shaggy handsome Bob (Gérard Depardieu) who evokes them for a career of crime, bringing into rich people's houses. This is the prelude to the trio setting up home together and the playing out of a succession of relationships with various sexual permutations. Blanc, who won a best actor award at the Cannes Film Festival, says the film is about the need for love and tenderness. In a perverse way, this may be true
- 11.45 Yachting: Whitbread Round the World Race. Gareth Evans reviews the six tough legs of the world's most famous foot race
- 12.55am Film: Overdrawn at the Memory Bank (1983). Paul Julia and Linda Griffiths star in an inventive science-fiction drama from Canada. Julia plays a data processor who has an extraordinary talent as a "hacker", enabling him to watch Cerebralia all day rather than work. However, his boss finds out and sends him to Nirvana village, where his personality is inserted into an African lioness. Directed by Douglas Walker. Ends at 2.25

## ITV VARIATIONS

- ANGLIA**  
As London except: 5.05-6.00 The A-Team 7.45-8.40 Murder, She Wrote: Alma Murder 11.30 Film: Starlight Machine 1.20 Bedstage 2.05 The Hit Man and Her 4.00-5.00 In the Heat of the Night
- BORDER**  
As London except: 12.30pm-1.00 News 4.50 The Life and Times of Grizzly Adams 11.30 Film: Fun with Dick and Jane 1.20am The Tonight Show 2.00 News and Her 4.00-5.00 America's Top Ten
- CENTRAL**  
As London except: 12.30pm-1.00 World Motor Cycle Scramble 5.05-6.00 The A-Team 7.45-8.40 Murder, She Wrote: Double Exposure 12.00am Film: Bronco Billy 3.40 Cinefantasies 4.10-5.00 Bedstage
- CHANNEL**  
As London except: 12.30pm-1.00 Superstars 1.45 Film: The Entertainer 1.30 The Marmalade Tree 2.00 Raw Power 3.00 Wrestling 4.00-5.00 The Hitman and Her

- GRAMPAN**  
As London except: 12.30pm-1.00 Am Patch 7.45-8.40 Murder, She Wrote: Alma Murder 11.30 Film: Fun with Dick and Jane 1.20am The Tonight Show 2.00 News and Her 4.00-5.00 America's Top Ten
- GRANADA**  
As London except: 3.55pm-4.50 The 12.30 Film: The Search for Peter Kelly 11.30 Film: Fun with Dick and Jane 1.20am The Tonight Show 2.00 News and Her 4.00-5.00 America's Top Ten
- HTV WEST**  
As London except: 7.45pm-8.40 Murder, She Wrote: Alma Murder 11.30am Magnam 12.30am The Tonight Show 2.00 News and Her 4.00-5.00 America's Top Ten
- HTV WALES**  
As HTV West except: No variations
- SCOTTISH**  
As London except: 12.30pm-1.00 NB 5.05

- KITTE AND DOG** 5.30-6.00 The Complete 7.45-8.40 Murder, She Wrote: Alma Murder 11.30 Film: Fun with Dick and Jane 1.20am The Tonight Show 2.00 News and Her 4.00-5.00 America's Top Ten
- TSW**  
As London except: 12.30pm-1.00 The South West Week 11.30 Film: Fun with Dick and Jane 1.20am The Tonight Show 2.00 News and Her 4.00-5.00 America's Top Ten
- TVE**  
As London except: 12.30pm-1.00 Superstars 5.05-6.00 The A-Team 7.45-8.40 Murder, She Wrote: Double Exposure 12.00am Film: Bronco Billy 3.40 Cinefantasies 4.10-5.00 Bedstage
- TYNE TEES**  
As London except: 3.55pm-4.50 The Life and Times of Grizzly Adams 11.30 Film: Fun with Dick and Jane 1.20am The Tonight Show 2.00 News and Her 4.00-5.00 America's Top Ten
- ULSTER**  
As London except: 12.30pm-1.00 The Marmalade Tree 1.30 The Marmalade Tree 2.00 Raw Power 3.00 Wrestling 4.00-5.00 The Hitman and Her
- YORKSHIRE**  
As London except: 7.45pm-8.40 Murder, She Wrote: Alma Murder 11.30am Magnam 12.30am The Tonight Show 2.00 News and Her 4.00-5.00 America's Top Ten

- RADIO 1**  
FM Stereo and MW 5.00am-6.00am The Bruno and Lesley Show 6.00-7.00am The Bruno and Lesley Show 7.00-8.00am The Bruno and Lesley Show 8.00-9.00am The Bruno and Lesley Show 9.00-10.00am The Bruno and Lesley Show 10.00-11.00am The Bruno and Lesley Show 11.00-12.00am The Bruno and Lesley Show 12.00-1.00am The Bruno and Lesley Show 1.00-2.00am The Bruno and Lesley Show 2.00-3.00am The Bruno and Lesley Show 3.00-4.00am The Bruno and Lesley Show 4.00-5.00am The Bruno and Lesley Show 5.00-6.00am The Bruno and Lesley Show 6.00-7.00am The Bruno and Lesley Show 7.00-8.00am The Bruno and Lesley Show 8.00-9.00am The Bruno and Lesley Show 9.00-10.00am The Bruno and Lesley Show 10.00-11.00am The Bruno and Lesley Show 11.00-12.00am The Bruno and Lesley Show 12.00-1.00am The Bruno and Lesley Show 1.00-2.00am The Bruno and Lesley Show 2.00-3.00am The Bruno and Lesley Show 3.00-4.00am The Bruno and Lesley Show 4.00-5.00am The Bruno and Lesley Show 5.00-6.00am The Bruno and Lesley Show 6.00-7.00am The 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# Morgan Crucible launches £79m call for acquisitions

By JEREMY ANDREWS

MORGAN Crucible, the electrical carbon and refractories group, has launched a £79 million rights issue to pay for a clutch of acquisitions.

The purchases will make Morgan the world's leading producer of ceramic fibres, as well as the supplier of the insulating tiles used on the Space Shuttle.

The shares, which have risen 15 per cent since the beginning of May, recovered from an initial sharp setback to end the day just 7p lower at 292p.

The terms of the rights issue are two-for-nine at 248p. The issue will raise £78.9 million after expenses, slightly less than the £81.4 million outlay on Morgan's latest purchases.

Of that, £38.2 million will go on the acquisition of the ceramic fibre and firebrick businesses of Manville, the US forest products and glass fibre producer better known for its former involvement in asbestos. Together, these

made operating profits of £10.6 million on sales of £65.2 million, though unusually for a US company, the European operations are four times the size of those in the US.

Morgan has also bought three other thermal ceramic businesses for £7.8 million, comprising the largest crucible manufacturers in the US and Spain and the only refractory ceramic fibre producer in France.

It is also paying £4.7 million for Dosimeter Corporation of America, which makes radiation detectors, £3.2 million for Laser Diode Products, which makes semiconductor lasers, and is negotiating to buy a specialty chemicals producer for £5.3 million.

Morgan's existing ceramic fibre business in the US, IPG, is about four times the size of the one being purchased from Manville and the group will become the world's leading producer of the material, which is used for high temperature industrial insulation and fire protection applications. Mr Bruce Farmer, Morgan's managing director, said he did not expect there to be any problems with the anti-trust authorities over the deal.

Mr Farmer said the acquisitions were being bought on an exit p/e ratio of eight. While the impact on Morgan's earnings would be neutral in 1990, he expected the deal to enhance them in 1991. Its net debt is expected to come down from 59 per cent of shareholders' funds in December to between 50 and 55 per cent by the end of the current year.

After the issue, Morgan's share capital will have been enlarged by more than 50 per cent since the stock market crash to pay for a series of piecemeal acquisitions of secondary businesses from large US corporations.



Growing: Bruce Farmer announces the deal yesterday

## Henderson puts slump behind it with £22m

By OUR BANKING CORRESPONDENT

STRICT cost control and a surge in investment income allowed Henderson Administration, the unit trust manager, a partial recovery after last year's slump. Pre-tax profits in the year to end-March rose 77 per cent to £22 million, almost returning to the £22.5 million made in 1988.

The final payout is being increased by 4.5p to 27.5p, to make 37.5p, up a quarter. Henderson was hit, however, by a walkout of 24 of its large institutional pension funds after its investment returns failed to match the industry averages in 1987 and 1988. As a result, the funds under management fell from £8.78 billion to £8.3 billion.

Mr Ben Wrey, chairman, said that Henderson's performance had beaten the industry average last year and the loss of business had slowed.

Personal Equity Plan sales have boomed, due to increased tax benefits for PEPs. Sales rose from £15 million to £14 million.

Henderson managed to limit expenses to a 4.7 per cent increase in the year, while revenue grew 16 per cent to £44.8 million. Profits were also helped by a 76 per cent rise in investment income to £12.4 million, mainly from the manager's £50 million cash pile.

## US backs Belfast takeover

By ROBERT RODWELL

US government guarantees will be linked with ones from Northern Ireland's Industrial Development Board to help to finance the takeover and revitalization of James Mackie & Sons, the 140-year-old Belfast textile machinery maker, by the Georgia-based Lummas Industries.

Completion of the £20 million takeover, agreed in draft in April, and the formation of a new company Lummas/Mackie follows a "overwhelming" vote in favour, by Mackie's workforce of nearly 1,000 people, on behalf of whom Mackie, formerly family-owned, is run by a trust.

A US federal agency, the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, is to extend a £3.8 million guarantee to the scheme.

## Cable TV franchises granted in 104 areas

By NICK NUTTALL, TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

MORE THAN 100 franchises have been awarded by the Cable Authority to companies planning to offer cable television and telecommunications services in Britain, with the announcement of five new operators.

Jones Cable Group, part of the Jones International organization, of Denver, Colorado, has secured the right to provide 62,000 homes in the Aylesbury and Chiltern area, adding to franchises already won at South Hertfordshire and Leeds.

As a partner in East London Telecommunications with Pacific Telesis, the United States regional telephone company, it also holds a further six

franchises of the 135 on offer. Mercury Communications, McNicholas Construction, Logica UK, Rosehaugh and 3i also have a stake in East London Telecommunications.

The Thamesmead franchise, covering 10,000 homes, has gone to the British subsidiary of a Canadian cable company, Videotronics, based in Montreal, which holds eight franchises including Southampton and Wandsworth.

A north London franchise, of 105,000 homes, has been awarded to Cable Enfield, a subsidiary of Cable London, which owns Camden and Haringey franchises.

Cable London is backed by

US West, an American regional telephone firm, and Comcast Corporation, which operates cable television services in the US.

Sixty thousand homes in the Lea Valley towns of Hertford, Ware, Chesham and Hoddeston have come under the control of Cablevision Communications, of Hertfordshire.

Cable Media, a British backed organization including Marconi, Flextech, and Trinity Development Corporation, has won the 210,000 home franchise in Sheffield.

The five new operating licenses brings to 104 the number of franchises that have been granted by the authority and means that cable, service, including the satellite channels of BSB and Sky, are now potentially available to 12.4 million homes, according to a spokeswoman for the authority.

If the remaining 31 franchises are taken up a further 2.5 million homes will have the chance of cable services.

Mr Richard Ryder, telecommunications analyst at Salomon Brothers UK, said that the awards of the new franchises, many with heavy American backing, highlighted the way American companies have seized on the opportunity of cable in the Britain.

"What is clear is that US companies, particularly the US Bell companies of US West and Pacific Telesis, are often involved at some level in many of these cable franchises," he explained.

Mr Ryder said the Bell companies were more interested in the future of telecommunications in Britain rather than in providing cable television services.

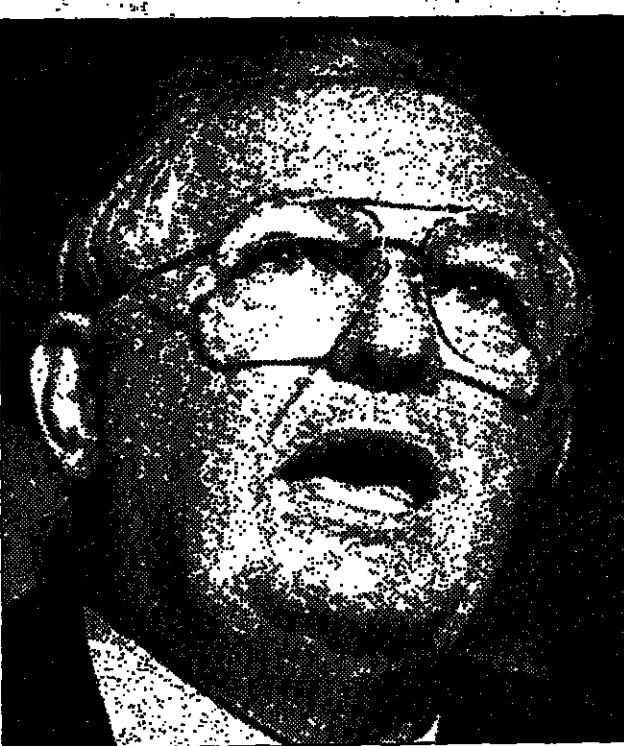
The main thrust behind their move was the anticipation that the British Government may, later in the year, make a decision to relax the existing monopoly rules on public telephone services by licensing new operators to compete with British Telecom and Mercury.

At present, cable companies providing local telephone services have to pay access charges to the national telephone network.

However, if the Government awards a new national telephone licence then the cable franchises, linked by a series of North South cables, makes being in cable very attractive to a Bell telephone firm, said Mr Ryder.

protection of the value of his investment which will allow the buyer of the Bond stake to follow through on the rights issue. BSB has completed the first part of a £900 million financing package and four shareholders — Granada, Pearson, Reed International and Chargeurs — have agreed to take up an additional £17.5 million each. BSB is now aiming to finalize the £450 million balance of the £900 million with six banks.

## BSB sets deadline for Bond stake sale



Alan Bond: shortlist of potential buyers

MR ALAN Bond has been given until the end of this month by British Satellite Broadcasting (BSB) to sell his 28 per cent stake in BSB without threatening the rights element attached (Colin Campbell writes).

If Mr Bond is unable to sell his stake to a shortlist of potential purchasers by that date, the Bond interest in BSB will be diluted to 7.5 per cent. Meanwhile, BSB has granted Mr Bond an extension to

protect the value of his investment which will allow the buyer of the Bond stake to follow through on the rights issue. BSB has completed the first part of a £900 million financing package and four shareholders — Granada, Pearson, Reed International and Chargeurs — have agreed to take up an additional £17.5 million each. BSB is now aiming to finalize the £450 million balance of the £900 million with six banks.

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and would face little actual competition in the Aegean.

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Allowing the ships to be based in Biraus would encourage their passengers to spend time in Greece before or after a cruise.

## Little chance of the 'new' BAT going up in a cloud of smoke

I went as a reporter to my first BAT annual meeting when Sir Duncan Oppenheim was chairman, and I thought it was time I went to another, which I did, in the Queen Elizabeth II conference centre on Thursday. I have followed BAT's fortunes from its first move to diversify out of tobacco — the bizarre acquisition of Tonibel ice cream — to the ultimate challenge to that strategy, the opportunistic and clever bid for BAT itself by Sir James Goldsmith, Lord Rothschild and Kerry Packer. I forecast the Hoylake bid well in advance of its launch on July 11 last year. Buyers of the shares at that time, together with BAT's existing band of shareholders, fractions and loyal alike, have done extraordinarily well, initially from the £13 billion Hoylake bid and subsequently from BAT's successful defence.

Thursday promised to be a celebration and up to a point it was. In a predominantly respectable, middle-class gathering, tobacco has become an uncomfortable subject. Coincidentally, the meeting fell on World No Tobacco Day which also saw publication of the World Health Organization's latest report on tobacco-related diseases. The anti-smoking campaigners were given a fair hearing. The uneasy rustling of tobacco leaves is unlikely to be stilled.

Nor will the making of cigarettes be stopped. The world cigarette market is growing at almost 2 per cent a year; profit margins can be increased even in countries where smoking is declining; the opening of major markets — first Japan and China and now Eastern European countries and the Soviet Union — is a huge opportunity for US and UK tobacco companies. BAT's share of the world market outside the US is greater than the combined share of its principal competitors, Philip Morris and RJ Reynolds. They are a powerful commercial and, in some countries, economic force.

Hindered perhaps by the arguments of the anti-smoking lobby, the market has difficulty in valuing earnings from tobacco. Probably they are still under-



KENNETH FLEET

valued and this may mean that the BAT share price will perform relatively less well than the company's qualities deserve. But I am not convinced. This is a "new" BAT.

The BAT board will not accept that it was compelled to restructure the group under the pressure of the Hoylake bid. Before the triumvirate pounced, BAT insists it had begun to consider moving out of retailing (Argos, Saks, Marshall Field) and paper (Wiggins Teape Appleton), not because its diversification into these areas had failed but as the chairman, Patrick Sheehy, put it: "Simply because we had found, in financial services, the right high-growth business to complement the steady growth and extremely reliable cash flow from tobacco..." This reshaping should offer shareholders not only growth but also income through our progressive dividend policy."

BAT is committed to a dividend cover between two and two-and-a-half times. "Through this combination of income and growth, shareholders should continue to enjoy long-term rates of total return that will be well above the average." Can they ask for more?

Of course they can, and no doubt will. There is still a credibility gap to close. The BAT board was surprised by the Hoylake offer and incredulous at the amount of sympathy it received from institutional shareholders. Its industrial strategy has at times lacked either logic or efficient execution or both, less so, it is fair to say, from 1982 when Pat Sheehy came to the top of the pile. The company did not take much trouble to explain its actions to influential institutional investors (it made the basic mistake of concentrating on analysts). The difficult and protracted acquisition of Farmers, the

US insurance company, is a case in point.

This successful bid is now recognized as an outstanding coup, and, coupled with the earlier acquisitions of Eagle Star and Allied Dunbar, is the measure of Sheehy's considerable contribution to recasting BAT into a more credible and more manageable shape. BAT now combines dynamic and defensive elements, powerful cash generation and an American-European dimension that only three other non-oil UK companies can begin to match. And it has learned to love its shareholders!

BAT, with Farmers a powerful poison pill because of the US state insurance regulatory system (as Sir James Goldsmith discovered), may be just about bid-proof. This can be an invitation to complacency on the board and among senior managers. BAT was wrong not to have given serious thought to the succession in the autumn of next year when Sheehy was due to retire as chairman and chief executive. The deputy chairman, Brian Garraway, is only one year younger and no one else had a prayer. Rightly, Sheehy has now agreed to stay until 1993, which gives the board time to address the question and come up with the right answer — maybe a non-executive chairman and a chief executive. The top executives — Michael Butt (Eagle Star), Martin Broughton (finance director), David Alvey (finance director), Barry Bramley (British-American Tobacco) and Mike Wilson (Allied Dunbar) — are all within the right, 45 to 52 age range.

BAT shares should be in any balanced portfolio because of the in-built qualities which I have already noted. Another asset of the "new" BAT is its ability to adapt to changing circumstances, as the Hoylake bid and BAT's sweeping response demonstrated. The chairman said on Thursday that the company's strengths "are appreciated as never before and I am determined to build on this new understanding." Having played golf with him, I would not dream of underestimating his will and his capacity to win.

## Magic Major takes City bouquets

May was an extraordinary month in the equity market. The tide of political pessimism receded and the FT-SE 100 index climbed 242 points. Labour's policy document, *Looking to the Future*, began to gather dust, the Prime Minister recovered her nerve and her voice, the Pretender (Michael Heseltine) suddenly found himself in a dark corner and Norman Tebbit, to his own and everyone else's astonishment, shot himself in both feet. But the "Personality of the Month" is undoubtedly John Major, the soft-spoken, shadowy Chancellor of the Exchequer.

The market turned up from its 1990 low of 2,103 as May dawned. This I attribute mainly to Wall Street's buoyancy and overseas buying, based on the belief that reports of double digit inflation and Mrs Thatcher's imminent "retirement" were exaggerated. The

rest is down to stock shortage and Mr Major.

I am sure that nothing is further from his thoughts than manipulating the markets. By fortunate coincidence, the words he has chosen for his speeches and interviews, the glosses put on them by the Treasury public relations machine, the unspoken implications in the prepared text, the hints of spokespersons, have all given an excellent tonic to sterling and the stock market. While making every appropriate cautionary noise this artist of the political high wire has succeeded in conveying to an expectant nation the idea that inflation may come down earlier and interest rates sooner than we may have thought.

More than that, he has us all on the edge of our seats waiting to see him conjure Britain's entry into the mysterious ERM of the EMS. This remarkable

trick, if he gets his timing right, could whisk Mrs Thatcher back to Downing Street for the fourth time. Pure magic.

It might, of course, be pure illusion but for the time being the City is ready to believe that ERM membership will happen sooner rather than later, underpin a firmer pound and lead to lower interest rates. The institutions are awash with money to invest and some of them are liable to panic into buying stock for fear of missing the boat. Because a lot can still go wrong economically, politically and in places like the Soviet Union, the more intelligent are likely to buy during falls or lulls and not chase stocks on days when the index shoots up 30 or more points.

The FT-SE range for the summer months looks like 2,250 to 2,450. The early autumn, with electricity privatization ready for lift-off, will be very interesting indeed.

## Chairmen named at LUI offshoots

By NEIL BENNETT, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

THE administrators at London United Investments, the collapsed insurance group, have appointed chairmen to its two largest subsidiaries, following the departure of Mr Ronnie Driver, their former chairman.

Price Waterhouse, LUI's administrator, has sacked 51 employees of HS Weavers, the underwriting agency, offshoot while 122 are being retained to deal with ongoing claims.

Sir Denis Marshall, a former president of the Law Society, is being made chairman of Weavers while Sir Ian Morrow is taking the helm at Walbrook Insurance, LUI's largest underwriting subsidiary.

Mr Peter Wilson, LUI's former chief executive, has also resigned but will be kept on as a part-time consultant.

Administrators were appointed to LUI last month after an actuarial report revealed deficiencies of up to £100 million in six underwriting subsidiaries.

A rescue plan led by Sedgwick, the insurance broker, to inject £120 million into the company founded due to the refusal of composite insurance firms to subscribe to it. Price Waterhouse is still trying to salvage the plan.

## US firms buy back \$2.5bn of junks in first quarter

From JOHN DUNN IN NEW YORK

US COMPANIES have taken advantage of the sagging junk bond market and bought back a record \$2.5 billion in junk bonds in the first quarter of this year.

First Boston figures show the first quarter buy-backs exceeded the record £2.2 billion for the whole of 1987 and compare with buy-backs of \$1.6 billion last year.

Companies with junk bonds on issue have taken advantage of falls by as much as 40 per cent in the bond prices, which have allowed the corporate sector to buy them back cheaply.

But the buy-backs have been done quietly for fear that bond holders may balk at the low bids received from the issuing companies.

Most were repurchased informally in the open market, as opposed to share buy-backs which follow a public announcement.

This was the case this week with Westinghouse Electric, which said it would repurchase 14 per cent of its shares on issue.

The junk bond buy-backs are creating some support for the market. Burlington Industries, a textile and clothing maker repurchased junk bonds with a face value of \$260 million for

## TDS loss expands to £3.5m

By PHILIP PANGALOS

TDS Circuits, the troubled USM manufacturer of printed circuit boards where Teknocray, an electronic components subsidiary of Olivetti of Italy, has control, saw its pre-tax losses deepen from £1.97 million to £3.51 million in the year to end-February.

Turnover slipped from £8.39 million to £8.23 million. The loss per share worsened from 16.39p to 28.41p and the fully-diluted loss from 16.68p to 20.58p.

Once again, there is no dividend. The company said that, in particular, its traditional defence market continued to be weak and production problems persisted throughout the year.

TDS said a number of improvements have already been made — improved production flow, greater concentration on target markets and increased financial and cost control.

The shares fell by 1p to 14p on the news.

## Greeks moving to open-sea policy

From CHRIS ELIOU IN ATHENS

THE Union of Greek Ship-owners has called for a relaxation of cabotage restrictions on cruise ships in the Aegean, in order to allow non-Greek operators to serve the first time.

It said that cabotage should be maintained only for coastal ferry services. The change of view follows British insistence that there can be no cabotage among European Community member countries.

The British Government has, for several years, been pressing Greece to negotiate the liberalization of shipping operations in the Aegean.

Mr Francis Maude, Minister of State at the Foreign

Commonwealth Office, has said that Britain recognizes Greece's desire to safeguard passenger ferry services to the islands and agrees that special treatment should be considered for these services, but that he takes issue with the "current situation in which the United Kingdom and some other member states allow free access to their coastal trade, but are denied access to the markets of other EC member states."

He said that this was unfair and contrary to the spirit of the Single European Market.

Stathis Gourdomichalis, president of the Greek Shipowners Union, said yesterday that for national, strategic and social

reasons, "commuter services that maintain communications from the Greek mainland to the islands must be preserved permanently by Greek flagships."

Greece needed to have these under its control for emergencies, he said, and for such vessels, "the Aegean is and must remain ours, and we will not share it with anyone."

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Ordinary Dep A/c	5.00	5.10	4.08	none/none	7 day
Fixed Term Deposits					
Barclays	10.88	10.88	8.70	25,000-50,000	1 mth 01-826 1567
Lloyds	10.83	10.83	8.42	25,000-50,000	6 mth 01-826 1567
Midland	10.83	10.83	8.42	25,000-50,000	1 mth 01-826 1567
NatWest	10.83	10.83	8.42	25,000-50,000	1 mth 01-826 1567
HSBC	10.83	10.83	8.42	25,000-50,000	1 mth 01-826 1567
City of London	10.83	10.83	8.42	25,000-50,000	1 mth 01-826 1567
London City	10.83	10.83	8.42	25,000-50,000	1 mth 01-826 1567
London City	10.83	10.83	8.42	25,000-50,000	1 mth 01-826 1567
London City	10.83	10.83	8.42	25,000-50,000	1 mth 01-826 1567

Nominal rate	Compounded at 25%	Min/max	Investment	Notes	Contact
<b>HIGH INTEREST CHEQUE ACCOUNTS</b>					
Barclays	10.45	10.45	8.78	2,500	none 031-442 7777
City of London	9.50	9.50	7.87	2,500	none 0604 228981
City of London	7.10	7.10	5.84	2,500	none 01-826 1567
City of London	9.25	9.25	7.40	2,500	none 01-826 1567
City of London	7.00	7.00	5.76	2,500	none 01-826 1567
City of London	9.50	9.50	7.87	2,500	none 01-826 1567
City of London	9.00	9.00	7.45	2,500	none 01-826 1567
City of London	9.75	10.11	8.08	2,500	none 031-555 8556
City of London	9.00	9.00	7.20	2,000	none 01-800 6000

Nominal rate	Compounded at 25%	Min/max	Investment	Notes	Contact
<b>BUILDING SOCIETIES</b>					
Ordinary Share A/c	6.15	6.15	4.92	1 min	none
Best buy - largest socs					
Barclays	10.50	10.50	8.40	250 min	none
Barclays	11.30	11.30	9.03	5,000 min	80 day
Barclays	11.30	11.30	9.03	10,000 min	90 day
Barclays	12.80	12.80	10.31	10,000 min	1 year

Nominal rate	Compounded at 25%	Min/max	Investment	Notes	Contact
<b>Best buy - all socs</b>					
Barclays	11.50	11.50	9.19	5,000 min	none
Barclays	12.25	12.25	9.79	3,000 min	80 day
Barclays	12.25	12.25	9.79	3,000 min	90 day
Barclays	12.70	12.70	10.15	5,000 min	6 mths

Nominal rate	Compounded at 25%	Min/max	Investment	Notes	Contact
<b>Cash/Cheque Accounts</b>					
Barclays	3.75	3.75	3.00	1 min	none
Barclays	6.00	6.00	5.52	500 min	none
Barclays	6.00	6.00	5.52	500 min	none
Barclays	6.00	6.00	5.52	500 min	none

Nominal rate	Compounded at 25%	Min/max	Investment	Notes	Contact
<b>NATIONAL SAVINGS</b>					
Ordinary A/c	5.00	3.75	3.00	5-10,000	9 day 041-649-4555
Ordinary A/c	12.75	9.56	7.85	5-25,000	1 mth 041-649-4555
Ordinary A/c	12.50	9.38	7.50	5-25,000	3 mth 0253 08151
Ordinary A/c	12.50	9.38	7.50	5-25,000	6 mth 041-649-4555

Nominal rate	Compounded at 25%	Min/max	Investment	Notes	Contact
<b>GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS</b>					
American Life	12.80	12.80	10.71	25,000 min	1 yrs Figures from 1989
American Life	11.37	11.37	9.38	2,000 min	2 yrs Figures from 1989
American Life	11.37	11.37	9.38	2,000 min	3 yrs Figures from 1989
American Life	11.37	11.37	9.38	2,000 min	4 yrs Figures from 1989

Nominal rate	Compounded at 25%	Min/max	Investment	Notes	Contact
<b>LARGER LOANS</b>					
Barclays	14.40	14.40	12.50	80	Rate discounted 1%
Barclays	14.40	14.40	12.50	80	Rate discounted 1%
Barclays	14.40	14.40	12.50	80	Rate discounted 1%

Nominal rate	Compounded at 25%	Min/max	Investment	Notes	Contact
<b>BANKS</b>					
Barclays	14.70	14.70	12.50	80	Rate discounted 1%
Barclays	14.70	14.70	12.50	80	Rate discounted 1%
Barclays	14.70	14.70	12.50	80	Rate discounted 1%

Nominal rate	Compounded at 25%	Min/max	Investment	Notes	Contact
<b>OTHER (INSURANCE COMPANY)</b>					
Barclays	14.45	14.45	12.50	80	Rate held to 1.10.90
Barclays	14.45	14.45	12.50	80	Rate held to 1.10.90
Barclays	14.45	14.45	12.50	80	Rate held to 1.10.90

Nominal rate	Compounded at 25%	Min/max	Investment	Notes	Contact
<b>LONDON TRADED OPTIONS</b>					
Barclays	14.40	14.40	12.50	80	Rate discounted 1%
Barclays	14.40	14.40	12.50	80	Rate discounted 1%
Barclays	14.40	14.40	12.50	80	Rate discounted 1%

Nominal rate	Compounded at 25%	Min/max	Investment	Notes	Contact
<b>RECENT ISSUES</b>					
Barclays	14.40	14.40	12.50	80	Rate discounted 1%
Barclays	14.40	14.40	12.50	80	Rate discounted 1%
Barclays	14.40	14.40	12.50	80	Rate discounted 1%

Nominal rate	Compounded at 25%	Min/max	Investment	Notes	Contact
<b>MAJOR CHANGES</b>					
Barclays	14.40	14.40	12.50	80	Rate discounted 1%
Barclays	14.40	14.40	12.50	80	Rate discounted 1%
Barclays	14.40	14.40	12.50	80	Rate discounted 1%

Nominal rate	Compounded at 25%	Min/max	Investment	Notes	Contact
<b>TRADITIONAL OPTIONS</b>					
Barclays	14.40	14.40	12.50	80	Rate discounted 1%
Barclays	14.40	14.40	12.50	80	Rate discounted 1%
Barclays	14.40	14.40	12.50	80	Rate discounted 1%

Nominal rate	Compounded at 25%	Min/max	Investment	Notes	Contact
<b>TO PLACE YOUR PROPERTY ADVERTISEMENT IN THE TIMES</b>					
Barclays	14.40	14.40	12.50	80	Rate discounted 1%
Barclays	14.40	14.40	12.50	80	Rate discounted 1%
Barclays	14.40	14.40	12.50	80	Rate discounted 1%

Nominal rate	Compounded at 25%	Min/max	Investment	Notes	Contact
<b>PRIVATE ADVERTISERS</b>					
Barclays	14.40	14.40	12.50	80	Rate discounted 1%
Barclays	14.40	14.40	12.50	80	Rate discounted 1%
Barclays	14.40	14.40	12.50	80	Rate discounted 1%

Nominal rate	Compounded at 25%	Min/max	Investment	Notes	Contact
<b>MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED</b>					
Barclays	14.40	14.40	12.50	80	Rate discounted 1%
Barclays	14.40	14.40	12.50	80	Rate discounted 1%
Barclays	14.40	14.40	12.50	80	Rate discounted 1%

Nominal rate	Compounded at 25%	Min/max	Investment	Notes	Contact
<b>TRADITIONAL OPTIONS</b>					
Barclays	14.40	14.40	12.50	80	Rate discounted 1%
Barclays	14.40	14.40	12.50	80	Rate discounted 1%
Barclays	14.40	14.40	12.50	80	Rate discounted 1%

Nominal rate	Compounded at 25%	Min/max	Investment	Notes	Contact
<b>TO PLACE YOUR PROPERTY ADVERTISEMENT IN THE TIMES</b>					
Barclays	14.40	14.40	12.50	80	Rate discounted 1%
Barclays	14.40	14.40	12.50	80	Rate discounted 1%
Barclays	14.40	14.40	12.50	80	Rate discounted 1%

Nominal rate	Compounded at 25%	Min/max	Investment	Notes	Contact
<b>PRIVATE ADVERTISERS</b>					
Barclays	14.40	14.40	12.50	80	Rate discounted 1%
Barclays	14.40	14.40	12.50	80	Rate discounted 1%
Barclays	14.40	14.40	12.50	80	Rate discounted 1%

Nominal rate	Compounded at 25%	Min/max	Investment	Notes	Contact
<b>MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED</b>					
Barclays	14.40	14.40	12.50	80	Rate discounted 1%
Barclays	14.40	14.40	12.50	80	Rate discounted 1%
Barclays	14.40	14.40	12.50	80	Rate discounted 1%

Nominal rate	Compounded at 25%	Min/max	Investment	Notes	Contact
<b>TRADITIONAL OPTIONS</b>					
Barclays	14.40	14.40	12.50	80	Rate discounted 1%
Barclays	14.40	14.40	12.50	80	Rate discounted 1%
Barclays	14.40	14.40	12.50	80	Rate discounted 1%

Nominal rate	Compounded at 25%	Min/max	Investment	Notes	Contact
<b>TO PLACE YOUR PROPERTY ADVERTISEMENT IN THE TIMES</b>					
Barclays	14.40	14.40	12.50	80	Rate discounted 1%
Barclays	14.40	14.40	12.50	80	Rate discounted 1%
Barclays	14.40	14.40	12.50	80	Rate discounted 1%

Nominal rate	Compounded at 25%	Min/max	Investment	Notes	Contact
<b>PRIVATE ADVERTISERS</b>					
Barclays	14.40	14.40	12.50	80	Rate discounted 1%
Barclays	14.40	14.40	12.50	80	Rate discounted 1%
Barclays	14.40	14.40	12.50	80	Rate discounted 1%

Nominal rate	Compounded at 25%	Min/max	Investment	Notes	Contact
<b>MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED</b>					
Barclays	14.40	14.40	12.50	80	Rate discounted 1%
Barclays	14.40	14.40	12.50	80	Rate discounted 1%
Barclays	14.40	14.40	12.50	80	Rate discounted 1%

Nominal rate	Compounded at 25%	Min/max	Investment	Notes	Contact
<b>TRADITIONAL OPTIONS</b>					
Barclays	14.40	14.40	12.50	80	Rate discounted 1%
Barclays	14.40	14.40	12.50	80	Rate discounted 1%
Barclays	14.40	14.40	12.50	80	Rate discounted 1%

Nominal rate	Compounded at 25%	Min/max	Investment	Notes	Contact
<b>TO PLACE YOUR PROPERTY ADVERTISEMENT IN THE TIMES</b>					
Barclays	14.40	14.40	12.50	80	Rate discounted 1%
Barclays	14.40	14.40	12.50	80	Rate discounted 1%
Barclays	14.40	14.40	12.50	80	Rate discounted 1%

Nominal rate	Compounded at 25%	Min/max	Investment	Notes	Contact
<b>PRIVATE ADVERTISERS</b>					
Barclays	14.40	14.40	12.50	80	Rate discounted 1%
Barclays	14.40	14.40	12.50	80	Rate discounted 1%
Barclays	14.40	14.40	12.50	80	Rate discounted 1%

Nominal rate	Compounded at 25%	Min/max	Investment	Notes	Contact
<b>MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED</b>					
Barclays	14.40	14.40	12.50	80	Rate discounted 1%
Barclays	14.40	14.40	12.50	80	Rate discounted 1%
Barclays	14.40	14.40	12.50	80	Rate discounted 1%

Nominal rate	Compounded at 25%	Min/max	Investment	Notes	Contact
<b>TRADITIONAL OPTIONS</b>					
Barclays	14.40	14.40	12.50	80	Rate discounted 1%
Barclays	14.40	14.40	12.50	80	Rate discounted 1%
Barclays	14.40	14.40	12.50	80	Rate discounted 1%

Nominal rate	Compounded at 25%	Min/max	Investment	Notes	Contact
<b>TO PLACE YOUR PROPERTY ADVERTISEMENT IN THE TIMES</b>					
Barclays	14.40	14.40	12.50	80	Rate discounted 1%
Barclays	14.40	14.40	12.50	80	Rate discounted 1%
Barclays	14.40	14.40	12.50	80	Rate discounted 1%

Nominal rate	Compounded at 25%	Min/max	Investment	Notes	Contact
<b>PRIVATE ADVERTISERS</b>					







# Portfolio PLATINUM

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add these prices to your running total for the week and check this page. If it matches this figure, you have won outright or a share of the total weekly prize money stated. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Close or Bid
1	Almery National (ns)	Bank/Discount	
2	Cowie (T)	Motor/Aircraft	
3	Amurad (ns)	Electricals	
4	Smiths Ind (ns)	Industrial S-Z	
5	Corwell Parker 'A'	Industrial A-D	
6	Cosalt	Building Roads	
7	Pillington (ns)	Industrial L-R	
8	Atwoods	Building Roads	
9	Polytype	Industrial L-R	
10	Quinness (ns)	Breweries	
11	Fobal	Industrial E-K	
12	Wood (SW)	Industrial S-Z	
13	Sale Tiley	Industrial S-Z	
14	St Land (ns)	Property	
15	Scot & New (ns)	Breweries	
16	Park Foods	Food	
17	Marlin	Industrial L-R	
18	Spring Ram	Industrial S-Z	
19	Caird Op	Chemicals/Plas	
20	Scourier	Industrial S-Z	
21	Costs Virella (ns)	Draperies/Stores	
22	Anglo TV 'A'	Leisure	
23	ASV	Industrial A-D	
24	Royal Telecom (ns)	Electricals	
25	Coast Group	Industrial A-D	
26	Almery	Transport	
27	Macdonald (A&J)	Property	
28	McKay Sols	Property	
29	Parnell Elect	Industrial E-K	
30	T & N (ns)	Industrial S-Z	
31	Summit (J&F)	Paper/Print/Adv	
32	Meyer Int	Building Roads	
33	Moca	Leisure	
34	Peatson (ns)	Newspapers/Pub	
35	Abbott Mead	Paper/Print/Adv	
36	Aaronson	Industrial A-D	
37	Low Group	Paper/Print/Adv	
38	Eastern Prod	Industrial E-K	
39	Cable Wireless (ns)	Electricals	
40	Marston Thompson	Breweries	
41	Hayworth	Industrial E-K	
42	Dowry	Motor/Aircraft	
43	Barton (ns)	Draperies/Stores	
© Times Newspapers Ltd. Daily Total			

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend						
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £4,000 in today's newspaper.						
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	TOTAL

There were no winners of yesterday's £2,000 Portfolio Platinum prize.

## BRITISH FUNDS

High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%
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## SHORTS (Under Five Years)

High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%
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## FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%
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## OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%
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## UNDATED

High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%
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## INDEX-LINKED

High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%
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## BANKS, DISCOUNT HP

High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%
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## STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

# Late rally

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began May 29. Dealings end June 8. Contango day June 11. Settlement day June 18.  
\$Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices recorded are at 4 pm. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (ns) denotes Alpha Stocks.

1990 High	1990 Low	Company	Price	Old	Change	%	PE
100	95	Almery National	100	95	+5	+5.3	15
100	95	Cowie (T)	100	95	+5	+5.3	15
100	95	Amurad (ns)	100	95	+5	+5.3	15
100	95	Smiths Ind (ns)	100	95	+5	+5.3	15
100	95	Corwell Parker 'A'	100	95	+5	+5.3	15
100	95	Cosalt	100	95	+5	+5.3	15
100	95	Pillington (ns)	100	95	+5	+5.3	15
100	95	Atwoods	100	95	+5	+5.3	15
100	95	Polytype	100	95	+5	+5.3	15
100	95	Quinness (ns)	100	95	+5	+5.3	15
100	95	Fobal	100	95	+5	+5.3	15
100	95	Wood (SW)	100	95	+5	+5.3	15
100	95	Sale Tiley	100	95	+5	+5.3	15
100	95	St Land (ns)	100	95	+5	+5.3	15
100	95	Scot & New (ns)	100	95	+5	+5.3	15
100	95	Park Foods	100	95	+5	+5.3	15
100	95	Marlin	100	95	+5	+5.3	15
100	95	Spring Ram	100	95	+5	+5.3	15
100	95	Caird Op	100	95	+5	+5.3	15
100	95	Scourier	100	95	+5	+5.3	15
100	95	Costs Virella (ns)	100	95	+5	+5.3	15
100	95	Anglo TV 'A'	100	95	+5	+5.3	15
100	95	ASV	100	95	+5	+5.3	15
100	95	Royal Telecom (ns)	100	95	+5	+5.3	15
100	95	Coast Group	100	95	+5	+5.3	15
100	95	Almery	100	95	+5	+5.3	15
100	95	Macdonald (A&J)	100	95	+5	+5.3	15
100	95	McKay Sols	100	95	+5	+5.3	15
100	95	Parnell Elect	100	95	+5	+5.3	15
100	95	T & N (ns)	100	95	+5	+5.3	15
100	95	Summit (J&F)	100	95	+5	+5.3	15
100	95	Meyer Int	100	95	+5	+5.3	15
100	95	Moca	100	95	+5	+5.3	15
100	95	Peatson (ns)	100	95	+5	+5.3	15
100	95	Abbott Mead	100	95	+5	+5.3	15
100	95	Aaronson	100	95	+5	+5.3	15
100	95	Low Group	100	95	+5	+5.3	15
100	95	Eastern Prod	100	95	+5	+5.3	15
100	95	Cable Wireless (ns)	100	95	+5	+5.3	15
100	95	Marston Thompson	100	95	+5	+5.3	15
100	95	Hayworth	100	95	+5	+5.3	15
100	95	Dowry	100	95	+5	+5.3	15
100	95	Barton (ns)	100	95	+5	+5.3	15

## BREWERIES

1990 High	1990 Low	Company	Price	Old	Change	%	PE
100	95	Almery National	100	95	+5	+5.3	15
100	95	Cowie (T)	100	95	+5	+5.3	15
100	95	Amurad (ns)	100	95	+5	+5.3	15
100	95	Smiths Ind (ns)	100	95	+5	+5.3	15
100	95	Corwell Parker 'A'	100	95	+5	+5.3	15
100	95	Cosalt	100	95	+5	+5.3	15
100	95	Pillington (ns)	100	95	+5	+5.3	15
100	95	Atwoods	100	95	+5	+5.3	15
100	95	Polytype	100	95	+5	+5.3	15
100	95	Quinness (ns)	100	95	+5	+5.3	15
100	95	Fobal	100	95	+5	+5.3	15
100	95	Wood (SW)	100	95	+5	+5.3	15
100	95	Sale Tiley	100	95	+5	+5.3	15
100	95	St Land (ns)	100	95	+5	+5.3	15
100	95	Scot & New (ns)	100	95	+5	+5.3	15
100	95	Park Foods	100	95	+5	+5.3	15
100	95	Marlin	100	95	+5	+5.3	15
100	95	Spring Ram	100	95	+5	+5.3	15
100	95	Caird Op	100	95	+5	+5.3	15
100	95	Scourier	100	95	+5	+5.3	15
100	95	Costs Virella (ns)	100	95	+5	+5.3	15
100	95	Anglo TV 'A'	100	95	+5	+5.3	15
100	95	ASV	100	95	+5	+5.3	15
100	95	Royal Telecom (ns)	100	95	+5	+5.3	15
100	95	Coast Group	100	95	+5	+5.3	15
100	95	Almery	100	95	+5	+5.3	15
100	95	Macdonald (A&J)	100	95	+5	+5.3	15
100	95	McKay Sols	100	95	+5	+5.3	15
100	95	Parnell Elect	100	95	+5	+5.3	15
100	95	T & N (ns)	100	95	+5	+5.3	15
100	95	Summit (J&F)	100	95	+5	+5.3	15
100	95	Meyer Int	100	95	+5	+5.3	15
100	95	Moca	100	95	+5	+5.3	15
100	95	Peatson (ns)	100	95	+5	+5.3	15
100	95	Abbott Mead	100	95	+5	+5.3	15
100	95	Aaronson	100	95	+5	+5.3	15
100	95	Low Group	100	95	+5	+5.3	15
100	95	Eastern Prod	100	95	+5	+5.3	15
100	95	Cable Wireless (ns)	100	95	+5	+5.3	15
100	95	Marston Thompson	100	95	+5	+5.3	15
100	95	Hayworth	100	95	+5	+5.3	15
100	95	Dowry	100	95	+5	+5.3	15
100	95	Barton (ns)	100	95	+5	+5.3	15

## BUILDING, ROADS

1990 High	1990 Low	Company	Price	Old	Change	%	PE
100	95	Almery National	100	95	+5	+5.3	15
100	95	Cowie (T)	100	95	+5	+5.3	15
100	95	Amurad (ns)	100	95	+5	+5.3	15
100	95	Smiths Ind (ns)	100	95	+5	+5.3	15
100	95	Corwell Parker 'A'	100	95	+5	+5.3	15
100	95	Cosalt	100	95	+5	+5.3	15
100	95	Pillington (ns)	100	95	+5	+5.3	15
100	95	Atwoods	100	95	+5	+5.3	15
100	95	Polytype	100	95	+5	+5.3	15
100	95	Quinness (ns)	100	95	+5	+5.3	15
100	95	Fobal	100	95	+5	+5.3	15
100	95	Wood (SW)	100	95	+5	+5.3	15
100	95	Sale Tiley	100	95	+5	+5.3	15
100	95	St Land (ns)	100	95	+5	+5.3	15
100	95	Scot & New (ns)	100	95	+5	+5.3	15
100	95	Park Foods	100	95	+5	+5.3	15
100	95	Marlin	100	95	+5	+5.3	15
100	95	Spring Ram	100	95	+5	+5.3	15
100	95	Caird Op	100	95	+5	+5.3	15
100	95	Scourier	100	95	+5	+5.3	15
100	95	Costs Virella (ns)	100	95	+5	+5.3	15
100	95	Anglo TV 'A'	100	95	+5	+5.3	15
100	95	ASV	100	95	+5	+5.3	15
100	95	Royal Telecom (ns)	100	95	+5	+5.3	15
100	95	Coast Group	100	95	+5	+5.3	15
100	95	Almery	100	95	+5	+5.3	15
100	95	Macdonald (A&J)	100	95	+5	+5.3	15
100	95	McKay Sols	100	95	+5	+5.3	15
100	95	Parnell Elect	100	95	+5	+5.3	15
100	95	T & N (ns)	100	95	+5	+5.3	15
100	95	Summit (J&F)	100	95	+5	+5.3	15
100	95	Meyer Int	100	95	+5	+5.3	15
100	95	Moca	100	95	+5	+5.3	15
100	95	Peatson (ns)	100	95	+5	+5.3	15
100	95	Abbott Mead	100	95	+5	+5.3	15
100	95	Aaronson	100	95	+5	+5.3	15
100	95	Low Group	100	95	+5	+5.3	15
100	95	Eastern Prod	100	95	+5	+5.3	15
100	95	Cable Wireless (ns)	100	95	+5	+5.3	15
100	95	Marston Thompson	100	95	+5	+5.3	15
100	95	Hayworth	100	95	+5	+5.3	15
100	95	Dowry	100	95	+5	+5.3	15
100	95	Barton (ns)	100	95	+5	+5.3	15

1990	1990		Price		Gross	Ytd	
High	Low	Company	Old	Chrg	on	%	P/E
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# Investors benefit as predators stalk building societies

THIS week an American bank became the latest predator to put a price on what it is prepared to pay for a British building society. Mr John S Reed, chairman of Citibank, said he was prepared to pay \$1 billion — about £590 million — for a society (Lindsay Cook writes).

Such a deal could give a cash bonus of £400 to £500 to all investors in any society which succumbs to the charms of the largest American bank and its £2.5 billion British mortgage book. It would also be accompanied by a reduction in the mortgage rate for borrowers and guarantees that both savings and mort-

gage rates would remain competitive in the long term.

Citibank, which has been quietly assessing building societies for two years, could get the Bristol and West or Britannia Building Society for its money. But it is more likely to aim a little lower possibly at the Birmingham Midshires, which currently has no chief executive and a newly appointed chairman, the Town & Country or the Skipton. It could then build up a national network with the £200 million or so left over from its budget.

There is stiff competition with about

40 other companies, including British insurance companies, foreign banks and other financial institutions, looking for a society partner. This is good news for building society members because it means that any prospective buyer will, according to analysts, have to pay double the book value of a society.

When the Frome Selwood Building Society recommended the lower offer of the Stroud & Swindon instead of the Cheltenham & Gloucester's bid it only just obtained the go-ahead from investors. In the future building societies will have to recommend the best deal to

members if they want to avoid a messy battle over ownership.

The subject of contested takeover bids is likely to dominate the annual conference of the Building Societies Association in Brighton, next week, where Mr Mick Newmarch, chief executive of the Prudential Corporation, is among the speakers. The Pru is one of the insurance companies in the market for a society. It wants to use a society as a mortgage factory for processing the loan applications it originates.

Societies fear that they may be forced by members into a union they do not

want. But the prospective buyers say that the first takeover of a society by a bank or insurance company will need the support of the building society board to succeed. To go ahead 50 per cent of building society savers must be persuaded to vote with 75 per cent of them in favour of the deal.

The Building Societies Commission is said to be already looking at one or more proposals. This is the first hurdle if a board is of a mind to accept as no takeover could prosper if the commission were against it. Dr John Wriglesworth, building society analyst at

Phillips & Drew, said an offer from Citibank for a society "makes a lot more business sense than the Frome Selwood and Stroud & Swindon merger."

Mr Tony FitzSimons, the managing director and chief executive of the Bristol & West, has inside knowledge of Citibank as a former employee. Eagle Star, which made a £30 million loan to the B&W this year, which it wants to convert into a 12.5 per cent stake recently took on Mr Joe Bradley, who, as a former chief executive of the Town & Country Building Society, can assist in their acquisition aspirations.

## Change of heart by Labour on personal equity plans and tax incentives for savers

By LINDSAY COOK

THE Labour Party no longer regards personal equity plans as a perk of the rich. If it forms the next Government it will encourage investment in industry and introduce more tax incentives for investors.

This is a big change of heart from the beginning of last year when, the Shadow Chancellor, Mr John Smith, said he would not regard the scrapping of the capital gains tax exemption on Peps as "retrospective taxation."

Now Labour is courting investment groups reassuring them that existing investors in Peps have nothing to fear.

Four Labour MPs have been doing the rounds of investment houses and trade associations. They are Mr Chris Smith, Mrs Margaret Beckett, Dr Marjorie Mowlam and Mr Paul Boateng.

The Unit Trust Association was told by Mr Smith last week that existing Peps would not be touched, and that any changes to the tax-free investments would not come in a Labour Government's first year of office.

This was exactly the same message received by a leading Pep provider from Dr Mowlam and Mrs Beckett.

A spokeswoman for the UTA said: "They seem to be making quite a pitch for new equity investors. They are looking at Peps and other investments with a view to offering more tax incentives. They seemed to be saying that they would bring other things



Doing the rounds: Paul Boateng (clockwise), Margaret Beckett, Chris Smith and Marjorie Mowlam

up to the level of the Pep and not the other way round."

She continued: "So many of their potential voters have these products now. The change of heart is because Peps are an increasing part of the market since the increase in the unit trust investment in the plans last year."

The meetings are a great relief to investment groups, many of whom are selling more Peps than ordinary unit

trusts or other products currently. Investors can now put £3,000 into a unit trust plan, which only needs to be 50 per cent invested in the UK to qualify for exemption from income and capital gains tax. There is also no time limit for selling the plans but investors are limited to one plan a year.

M&G announced this week that it now has more than 60,000 Peps holders with £100 million invested and yes-

terday Henderson revealed that it has sold £99 million of Peps in the last year. But while most groups are keeping their own sales figures quiet there is a universal agreement that it is far easier to sell equity investments with tax benefits attached than straight unit trusts.

A senior executive at one investment group said: "Since the increase in limits for unit trust Peps they have become a much more popular product and no longer appear to be regarded by the Labour Party as a product for the portfolios of rich clients of stockbrokers."

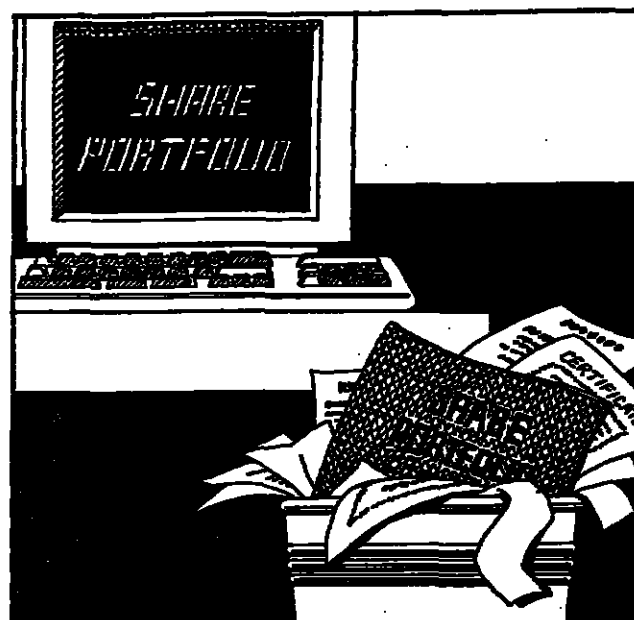
The Labour Treasury spokesmen are now keen to promote investment in industry and plan to introduce regional investment bonds. These would give tax incentives to investors. These could be on a sliding scale with higher tax incentives for areas with high levels of unemployment and the lowest benefit in the prosperous South-east.

Unit trust groups have also emphasized that such a scheme could only become a mass investment vehicle if they were involved from the outset.

Mrs Beckett said: "We very much take the view that we don't want to rush about, doing anything, and that existing investors would be protected."

Mrs Beckett added that regional investment bonds would encourage investment in industry.

## Share dealing made simple



MR PETER Rawlins, chief executive of the Stock Exchange, admitted this week "it is currently far from easy to buy and sell shares," as many of the 11 million to 12 million shareholders know to their cost.

Come October next year, five years after the City was revolutionized by Big Bang, private investors will finally receive the benefit when virtually every piece of paper traditionally associated with a share transaction is swept away.

From the point of view of the investor, it should speed up the business of share dealing, simplify it, and, perhaps even reduce the cost.

In short, trading on the stock market will be as simple for the small and unsophisticated investor as running a bank account.

It is all made possible by Taurus, an electronic system for processing and settling every share deal. Taurus has been a long time in the designing, but is now close to finalization. London's International Stock Exchange be-

lieves it is on schedule for an October 1991 start-up.

Many hurdles have yet to be cleared. For example, no decision has been taken on the ownership of the new clearing house. Government approval of the final proposals will be needed, and every company listed on the stock market will have to put "dematerialization" — the abolition of all the paper — to a shareholder vote, probably some time during the next 18 months.

Investors will issue an instruction to a broker, their account will be debited or credited and a day or two later they will receive confirmation of the transaction in the shape of an advice note.

The entire process should

take at most three days, compared with more than two weeks at present. No more will share certificates need to be sent backwards and forwards for signatures before a deal can be considered complete.

Mr Ross Findlay, director of Bell, Lawrie, White, one of the bigger private client brokers outside London, says Taurus will have a big impact on his business, and believes the number of investors will grow as the system is simplified.

But he believes that re-education will be necessary. The Stock Exchange is considering a promotional campaign next year.

MICHAEL TATE

## Advertisements to carry risk warning

INVESTORS in warrant funds are to be warned they risk losing all their money, under new rules on advertising introduced this week (Jon Ashworth writes).

The rules, from the Securities and Investments Board, require a new risk warning to

be displayed prominently on advertisements to the general public. It will state: "The value of units in this scheme may be subject to large and rapid fluctuations. Do not buy units with money you cannot afford to lose."

The SIB, which regulates

the way in which warrant and other investment funds are sold in Britain, announced the changes in March.

At the time, it also called for a complete ban on off-the-page advertising of warrant funds, which can be extremely volatile.

## Insurance companies examine premiums

By JON ASHWORTH

NEW policyholders with Allied Dunbar will pay up to 20 per cent more for their insurance cover than existing customers, after a review of premium rates which took effect this week.

The increases could add £100 a year to the cost of a typical term insurance plan, the worst affected. The cost of permanent health insurance will rise by about 5 per cent, while whole-of-life policies are expected to rise slightly for clients over 50.

Most insurance offices will increase their premiums at some stage to take account of changes in the way life funds are to be taxed.

The changes will prove most expensive to unit-linked life offices, many of which have already reviewed their charges or are planning to do so. Sun Life, which increased its premiums in March, said term insurance was hit the hardest because of the high level of charges.

Mr Rob Lee, marketing actuary, said most of a typical term insurance premium went in charges, with only a small part being given over to investment. But he said investors were likely to do better in the long term because income on the funds was to be taxed more leniently.

Standard Life, the largest unit-linked office, said it was reviewing its terms for a number of reasons, including higher taxation.

Abbey Life is currently reviewing its charging structure. New rates on insurance, savings and pensions products are to be announced on July 1.

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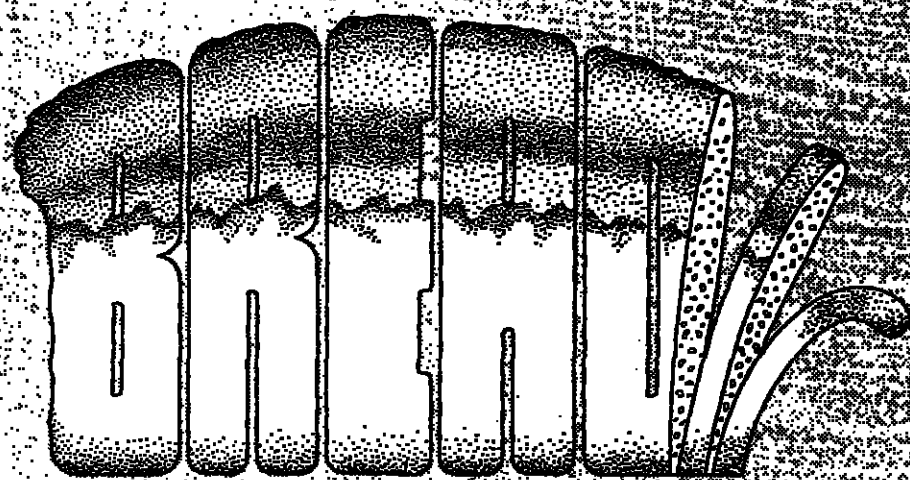
To: Lucy Fountain, Client Services Department, GT Unit Managers Ltd, FREEPOST, London EC2B 2DL. Telephone: 071-828 5285. Please send me further details of the GT Germany Fund.

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## FAMILY MONEY

## Global warming threatens to push up the cost of home insurance

By MARGARET DIBBEN

OWNERS of homes in low-lying areas may have to pay more for their house insurance if forecasts that global warming will raise sea levels prove to be accurate.

The cost of buildings insurance is uniform throughout the country after an agreement in the early 1960s between the insurance industry and the Government. Homeowners in areas liable to flooding pay the same as those who live on a hill.

But this is likely to change. Mr Philip Dell, Sun Alliance's underwriting manager, said: "We are starting to look at different areas to see whether there are regional variations. It won't happen overnight but people will begin to find that certain houses are prone to flooding and the rates of those areas will probably have to go up. But we are talking very long term."

There is no consensus between weather experts on the effects, if any, of global warming. But they do agree that recent weather trends show the world has moved into a period of greater extremes. Even if the greenhouse effect does not melt the polar ice cap, parts of the country will



Taken at the flood: Canvey Island in 1953 when 300 people lost their lives

become more vulnerable to severe weather damage.

An expert in climatic changes is already worried. Dr Mike Tooley, reader in geography at Durham University, said: "I live at 300 feet and I wouldn't buy a house in a low lying coastal area. My parents used to have a house in an area below five metres and I was glad when they sold it."

Mr Graham Shearn, corporate planning manager of Sun Alliance UK, which in-

surges one home in five, said: "All insurance companies are giving a lot of attention to their premium rates. The evidence of the past decade is that we have recently experienced much more windy conditions. There is a potential for greater subsidence and a potential not yet realized for a repeat of the North Sea storms which caused widespread flood surges in 1953."

Dr Tooley explained why severe weather now has a

been a great hue and cry because no one was living there. Now all coastal areas are high risk areas."

He estimates that sea levels might rise between 24cm and 38cm by 2050, an increase of 3mm to 6mm a year - three or four times greater than the global rates over the past 100 years. "A 5mm per year rate is the critical threshold for shoreline erosion and coastal retreat. Even a 15cm rise of sea level will treble the incidence of storm surges in the Irish Sea exceeding danger levels."

Dr Andrew Dlugolecki, commercial insurance manager with General Accident, is also watching the weather reports. He said: "The weather now is more extreme than it was and we have more problems with droughts and storms than we used to."

He added: "I have mentioned this to building societies but at the moment it is not seen as a major problem because the average life of a mortgage is only six years."

There are no difficulties obtaining mortgages for houses built below the critical five metre level and, as long as insurance companies continue to insure the property, home loans will be available.

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## Evolution for A&amp;L and Girobank

By BARBARA ELLES

THE only certainty about this month's takeover of Girobank by the Alliance & Leicester building society is that the A & L will not start selling stamps or cashing unemployment benefit cheques in its 420 branches.

More than two years after the £130 million takeover was first negotiated, executives of both institutions are still giving vague answers to questions about what will happen to the range of savings and money products the two institutions provide.

The society displays 16 leaflets on different services in its branches, while Post Offices carry up to 11 from Girobank. A number of the products appear to duplicate each other.

A Girobank spokesman said: "It's not going to be big bang from June 23 - it will be evolution." Even six weeks from now, he added, it would probably not be possible to give customers more details of the probable changes to come.

Mr Scott Durward, chief general manager of the A & L, said there will be "no tremendous or cataclysmic changes on day one."

He thought that as both institutions are members of the Link automatic teller machine network, they would see more ATM transactions.

"Existing patterns will continue for the most part," said Mr Durward, adding that the society would need to take marketing decisions about the rates on the different savings accounts.

He hoped Girobank customers would flow towards

the society for financial counselling.

Alliance & Leicester customers will have accounts such as Girobank's Keyway drawn to their attention, according to Mr Durward.

But the society has only just given the 35,000 holders of its own BankSave Plus accounts notice to quit - they were offered the alternative of switching to the Bank of Scotland, which ran the account jointly with the A & L.

The impending merger has caused some foreboding in the back offices of the A & L.

After the merger of the Alliance with the Leicester in 1985, the combined society wound up operating five computer systems in two different locations. It was only this year that it managed to get back to a single mortgage system and a single investment system.

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## FAMILY MONEY

The more you buy, the more you can save on credit card exchange rate terms

## Big spender's currency win

By LINDSAY COOK, FAMILY MONEY EDITOR

HOLIDAYMAKERS spending heavily on their credit cards can win better exchange-rate terms than other customers.

A Family Money reader who recently bought a property in France has received several refunds from Barclaycard after challenging the exchange rates used.

His most recent dispute followed the introduction of a less favourable exchange-rate regime by Barclaycard for all customers.

Each time the reader felt that he was being overcharged, he wrote to the credit card company and eventually received a credit. However, the tedious process does not always succeed with the first letter.

The reader, who, in March, bought furniture costing more than FF40,000 (equivalent to £4,197 this week), was disappointed to find that the exchange rates were "significantly lower than the interbank rates quoted daily in *The Times* and, in some cases, lower even than the tourist rate."

He calculated that had the interbank rate been used, he would have been billed for £4,394.30 instead of £4,506.67.

After the difference of £112.37 had been pointed out, the credit card company re-

plied: "May we advise that when converting your foreign transactions into sterling, we use our own 'tourist' rate, which is supplied by Visa's International Bankers."

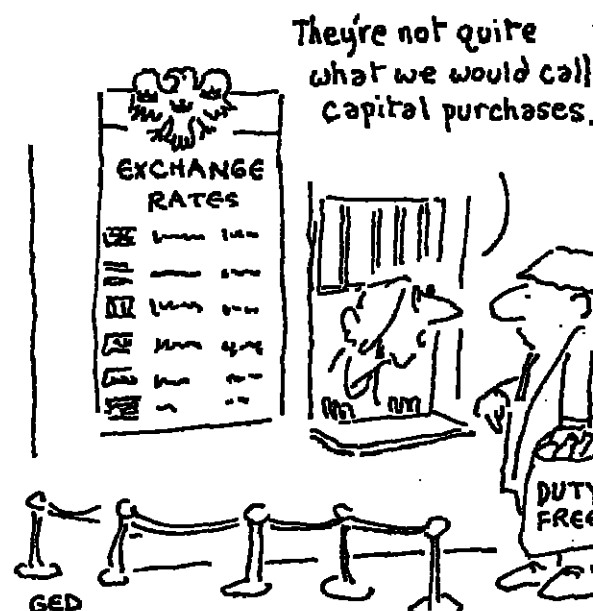
"The rate we use must be seen in the light of a retail rate and cannot be compared to the fine wholesale commercial rate which is quoted in the financial press."

However, when pressed by the customer to check his file for other credits - the previous one being in June last year for £34.11 - Barclaycard agreed to refund the £112.37.

The reply explained that since May 1989 the exchange-rate weighting to account for clearance, conversion and settlement costs, had been adjusted. "Therefore you will have received a more favourable exchange rate for purchases which were debited to your Barclaycard account prior to this date," Barclaycard said.

In February this year, Barclaycard's magazine outlined how it calculates bills for purchases made abroad. The magazine pointed out that Barclaycard uses the rate on the date it receives the sales information, which is unlikely to be the date of purchase. It is usually two to three days after the card is used.

"You should find that the rates themselves compare well



with other methods of payment overseas, though they won't be quite as good as commercial rates quoted in the financial press for large transactions, which might typically be 2 or 3 per cent better," it explained.

The Barclaycard conditions of use state that "the amount of any card transaction in a currency other than sterling, will be converted at a rate of exchange determined by the Bank, for the date when the card transaction is debited to the card account."

A spokesman for Barclay-

card said: "Normally the exchange rate used is a tourist rate, which is 2 to 3 per cent less good than companies would get. But it is competitive with foreign exchange rates for travellers' cheques."

"We are dealing in the main with tourists and businessmen who are not using the card as a main method of payment. In the case of your reader, he has a very high credit limit and is using the card to make capital purchases."

"We therefore took the view that he was not using the card as a visitor, and made an

allowance for him. We did this on a one-off basis. The purchases ran into thousands of pounds."

"The customer also said he was not aware of the article in the February magazine on exchange rates."

At American Express, a spokesman said that it changed the commercial or interbank rates of exchange. "Our card member agreement states that members will get a rate at least as good as the interbank rate, tourist rate or, where applicable, the official rate," he added.

Amex added a 1 per cent conversion charge, but members were still "on the whole 2 per cent better off than they would be if they went into a bank offering a tourist rate," he added.

The company made the calculation on the day it received the charge from the retailer, and with modern technology this was very quick.

"The days when you could go on holiday and then wait three months for the bills to arrive are long gone," the Amex spokesman said. "They are now waiting for you when you return."

Barclaycard this week increased the amount of cash that cardholders can get while abroad to £500 a day from banks displaying the Visa logo and £200 from Visa cash dispensers.

## LETTERS

## Hazard of using direct debits

From Professor Colin Harbury Sir, R.C. Ashworth's letter (May 19) prompts me to warn of a related hazard of using direct debits. This can arise whenever there is a change in the sum to be debited. It can then happen that two debits are made - for both the old and the new sums.

I experienced such an event on two occasions recently. They followed the maturing of life policies. I was notified by the insurance company that the monthly premiums on my two remaining policies would be reduced. But scrutiny of my bank statements showed that both old and new sums had been deducted under direct

debts. Correspondence with the insurers' computers proving useless, it was only by involving the Insurance Ombudsman that I got satisfaction, my bank having disclaimed responsibility.

How can one be sure that a change in the amount of a direct debit will substitute for the old sum? The answer is to use banker's orders not direct debits, which option all community charge payers might do well to contemplate. Yours faithfully, COLIN HARBURY, Bridge House, The Street, Pakenham, Suffolk.

## Resisting banks' 'exchange' costs

From Mr Roderick Tye Sir, I wonder if you would be interested in feedback to your article in January about exchange rate charges in banks.

I paid into my account a cheque for £131 drawn on the Deutsche Bank in Munich. The National Westminster Bank charged me £13.60 in charges and interest, although the cheque was already in sterling. It seems that the explanation the NatWest spokesman gave you, that "there is still a conversion and a conversion risk," is therefore not correct.

Three letters to my bank manager produced a rather sarcastic reply and a refund of the interest, but still no explanation of why the charges were so high.

My own belief is that the banks have no incentive to make the system more efficient so long as they feel they can pass charges directly on to their customers. It is only by joining forces that customers can change their minds. A newspaper article is a great help in that respect, so I hope that you will not let the subject drop. There must be many dissatisfied customers like me who will support you. Yours faithfully, RODERICK TYE, 10 Parkstone Road, Felixstowe, Suffolk.

## Disturbance discounted by poll tax

From Miss Lorna Dell Sir, I wonder if your Family Money team are aware of an anomaly brought about by the introduction of the community charge.

Under the old rating system, in the event of an occurrence detrimental to the enjoyment of one's home, it was possible to apply to the local authorities for a temporary or permanent reassessment of the rateable value.

This was particularly common in cases of acute distur-

bance caused by adjoining building works, whereby a temporary reduction in the rateable value resulted in a reduction in the rates payable.

I understand from my local authority that, with the introduction of the community charge, there is now no way that a household can apply for such a reduction. Yours sincerely, LORNA DELL, Flat 5, 50 Belsize Square, NW3.

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## Portfolio PLATINUM

For readers who may have missed a copy of *The Times* this week, we repeat below the week's Portfolio price changes (today's are on page 23).

Share	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Weekly
1	+0	+4	+6	+8	+4		
2	+0	+6	+5	+6	+4		
3	+0	+8	+5	+7	+6		
4	+0	+4	+8	+6	+2		
5	+0	+8	+3	+8	+7		
6	+0	+6	+5	+6	+3		
7	+0	+3	+5	+3	+3		
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41	+0	+4	+6	+8	+1		
42	+0	+8	+4	+8	+5		
43	+0	+4	+5	+6	+2		
44	+0	+7	+4	+5	+3		

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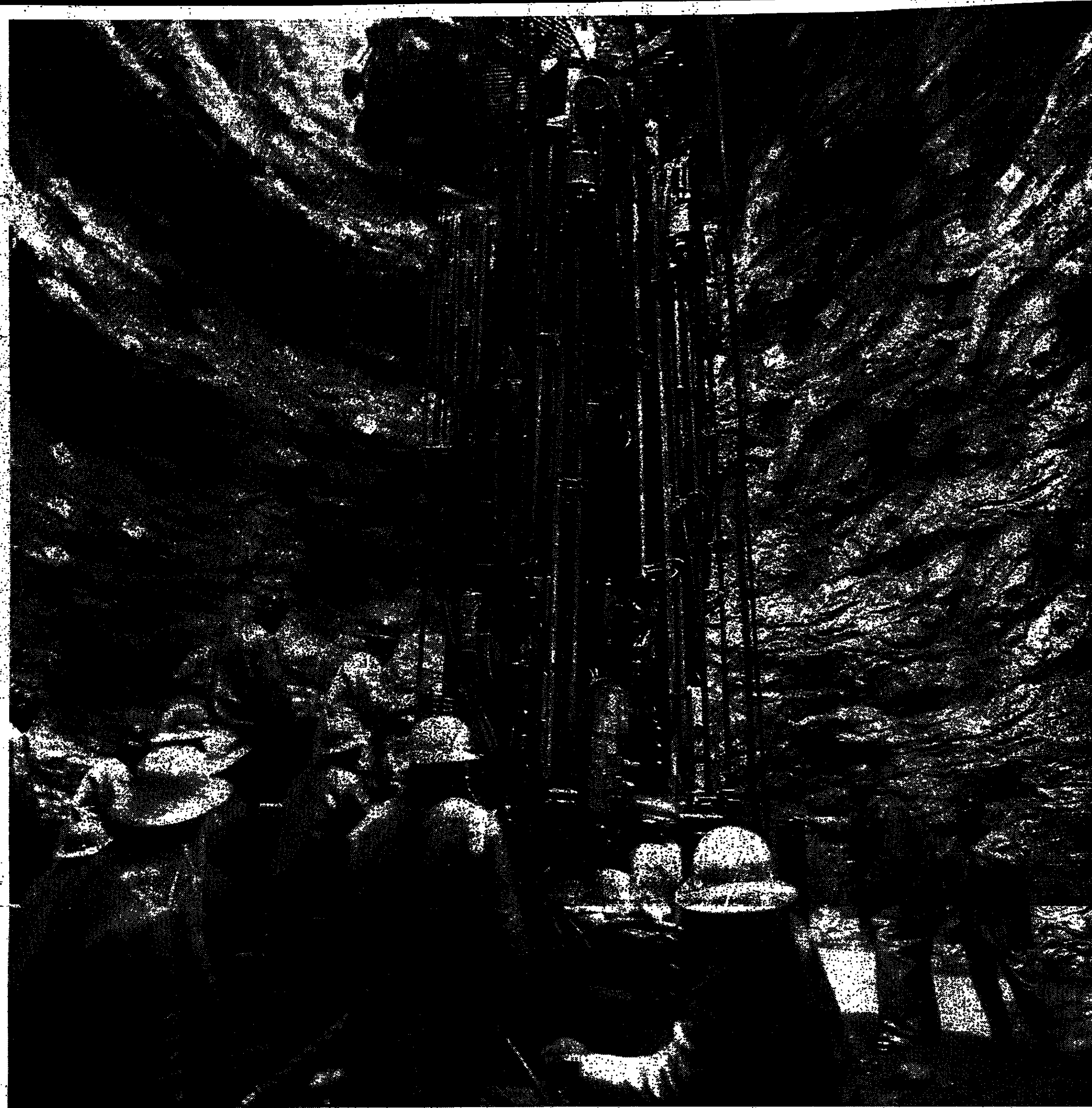
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THE TIMES

# REVIEW

SECTION 3

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- WINE: JANE MACQUITTY'S JUNE CHOICE
- EATING OUT: CURRYING FLAVOUR
- SHOPPING: THE SWIMSUITS TO FLAUNT

SATURDAY JUNE 2 1990

PHOTOGRAPHS BY GRAHAM WOOD



## The crocodile man who treads lightly in the forest

Lex Silvester is no Crocodile Dundee, but dedicated to eco-tourism, blending sightseeing with conservation. Brian James met him at the remote Seven Spirit Bay



With a wave of his hand Lex Silvester signalled: "Stop. Be silent." Fifty yards away a deer became a golden blur in the light beneath the rainforest canopy. A few paces, another pause, and a snake poured itself into the undergrowth while a kookaburra cackled at our alarm. Our guide crouched again: "Look, there... 100 metres... you can just see his snout at the edge of the swamp... A big fella."

That "big fella" was a 21ft crocodile. Knowing where such creatures lurk is essential for men who live and guide others about the wilderness of Australia's northernmost tip. But anyone less conforming to the macho "G'day mate" -ism of Crocodile Dundee, who brought to this area a potentially fatal fame, is not easily imagined.

Mr Silvester is soft-spoken almost to inaudibility, perhaps from a long habit of not wanting to frighten the fauna. He is a former corporation lawyer with an international practice, a fierce ecology activist, and at one time advised the government on the environment. What he does now could do more for remote Arnhem Land than all of actor Paul Hogan's Hollywood exploits. And perhaps even offer a little help for the rest of the world.

He has sunk about £4 million of his own and friends' money into an experiment at the remote Seven Spirit Bay to prove that eco-tourism - intelligent sightseeing - can co-habit with nature in the great wildernesses of the world. The awful "sink" that tourism has made of the Mediterranean, ravaged footpaths from Snowdonia to

Everest, the crumbling coral of the Great Barrier reef and the Caribbean, are all hindsight examples of what happens when jet flight and unending growth in wealth and leisure make Marco Polos of the masses.

But on the day that tourism discovered them, few of these now-betrayed natural delights had so fierce a guardian as Mr Silvester. For more than 20 years he has wandered the Gurig national park on the Coburg peninsula, a stag-horn of land of almost impenetrable beauty, where virgin rainforest and bush reach back from hundreds of miles of yellow sand and redstone cliff.

Through this wilderness, unreachable by road, he intends to lead visitors in quiet handfals; to show them the slow magic of its micro-ecologies and the unique variety of its wildlife. He knows that his whole enterprise fails its meaning if his groups leave any more trace than the Aborigines who came this way through the

centuries. "My own preference would have been that Gurig had been left inviolate," he says. "That's my selfishness. I was horrified when I heard what was being planned, and I had to act."

What was being planned was the march into Gurig park of mass tourism, beckoned in by the Aborigines who, in fashionable officialdom, are the "traditional custodians" of this peninsula. It is a sad story.

The Aborigines were herded off the land to "tame the noble savage" (in the phrase of a disgraced tribal lands ranger) and by 1970 the entire Coburg area was without man. Then, 10 years ago, a change in policy declared it was now right to shoo the surviving handful back to the lands they had roamed for 40,000 years. But back to what? Few of their young wanted to turn from electricity, videos and the bottle shop, to trek toward a future of turtle-spearfishing subsistence. Could tourism be encouraged, to bring in jobs? Seven

big developers, impresarios in concrete and candy floss, hastened to tender.

Over an uproarious dinner, Nelson Mulurring, head of the clan and decision-maker for the 60 or so surviving members, told us how he came to reject all developers in favour of Mr Silvester's Seven Spirit Bay. But first we had to hear how he had lost his dog to a croc that day - "Aussie law says I can't touch that croc, but my law says I go with a 30-30 bullet tomorrow and get my dog back from inside that old bugger."

He told how the Australian government had sent him and other elders on a sort of shopping air-tour to glitzy tourist resorts in Queensland to see what he would like done to his own land. "Good trip. Good tucker. I could see the tourist dollars, and wanted some."

And then, when he came back, he made a 15-year, rent-plus-profit-share deal with Lex Silvester. The clincher? "When my mother was going, she called to me and told me I must protect this land. Her family, big mobs, had walked here since the beginning. A long, long, long time."

This did we touch on what makes this experiment of such profound concern to the Aborigines. In their spoken history, the Coburg peninsula is where Warramurra-Ngundi, the Mother of the Earth, first stepped on Australia back in the Dreamtime and began her long journeys, singing the land to life. There is no more sacred place, and that is why Mr Silvester does not doubt that when work began on Seven Spirit Bay it was no mere fancy that workmen felt eyes upon them from the depth of the bush.

The very notion of construction work in a preserved wilderness was surely a nonsense? "Perhaps," he said. "But we did what we could. We had permission for a bush airstrip, but rejected the idea. There will never be a road. Visitors will get here as you did: an hour from Darwin in a light plane to a strip across the bay, 20 minutes by truck, then an hour across by boat."

But there had to be destruction? "What we did was put fences around where each building would stand. Any man taking himself or his machinery beyond those fences or on to the beach had a £1,000 fine - and was off the site. Then we took down the fences and replanted rainforest seeds and saplings." Still, some rubble was inevitable? "Sure. We dug a pit, burned and buried it, and pushed the bush back on top. I'll take you within 20 yards and defy you to find it." Footpaths? "None. We will follow the feral Banteng cattle, which have laid down the network of tracks we shall use."

One offence for which visitors will be asked to leave (though they will have paid £1,500 for a week's stay) will be picking any plant. Mr Silvester will be almost as miffed with a guest who uses the word "resort" about Seven Spirit Bay.

"This," he said, "is a base. A resort means pedalos and tennis courts, a disco and folklore evenings."

What you get at his base by way of entertainment are excursions to the place where white settlers first came ashore in the Northern Territory (and to the rock-art paintings in which aboriginal artists recorded the event), overnight fishing-camping trips, and walks with men who will show you plants that grow nowhere else on Earth. One of these guides is Steve Hughes, another believer, who said: "It has been estimated that only 10 per cent of the insects here have ever been described. We know of 250 varieties of bird, yet keep seeing others we are not sure

of. We know the Aborigines have a pharmacopoeia of 100 plants; three botanists I brought here saw three plants in an afternoon they did not know existed. This is a place to tiptoe about in; not because of what you might see, but because of what you might destroy."

To enjoy it, you will not need to hollow a place for your hip beneath the groundsheet, or remember to shake your boots for scorpions when rising. "Roughing it is no necessary part of learning about the remarkable places of the world," Mr Silvester said. Yes, you will shower in the open; but in a tiled "dunny", lacking half its roof and two of its walls but

equipped with 24-hour hot water, hair-drier and all the aids and lotions of the airport Hilton. Yes, you will sleep in the open, in the sense that each "habitat" has mesh, where a Holiday Inn would have walls. But you get king-size beds, mini-bar, satellite telephones, plus a startling "extra" after lights out: with the forest foliage swaying to breeze and passing wildlife, this is like having a room of William Morris wallpaper which moves.

Lying there listening to the crickets saying their mantra, you think back on what Mr Silvester said over dinner: "If you go to Kakadu [the great national park]

Continued overleaf

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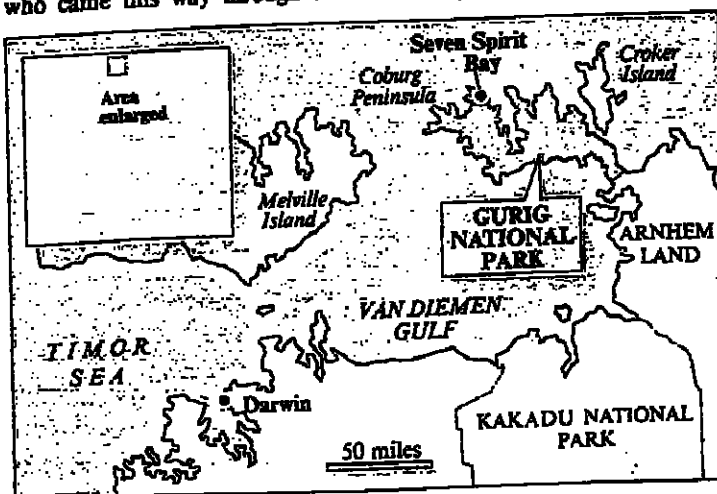
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## THE NED SHERRIN COLUMN

## A prince among prize-winners

The Prince of Wales gave away nearly £90,000 for seven literary awards in the Banqueting House in Whitehall. The evening had an ageist and sexist aspect. There were awards for poets aged under 30, novelists over 40, women journalists and romantic novelists under 35. Next year an award for first novelists over 60 is promised. Introducing Prince Charles, Philip Zeigler looked forward to something for tenth-time biographers over 70, and reckoned he'd be in with a chance.

Modestly dismissing his own best-selling children's book and best-scoring architectural tract, the Prince also put himself out of contention for the Betty Trask Award for Romantic Fiction — oddly given this year to a book whose unromantic hero is a foul-mouthed Irish tramp who dosses down outside Buckingham Palace and says rude things about the people inside.

Mr Zeigler conducted these supermarket awards admirably, sitting down discreetly when he had brought on his royal presenter and jumping up again as the television cameras started turning. No one else made speeches so no one topped the much-travelled D.J. Enright, who, when he received a travelling scholarship one year, asked: "Is the Isle of Wight far enough?"

Later, I inspected Embargo, London's latest club, which is around the corner in Lots Road and used to be a gym. Derek Frost has converted the bare white walls into a pasha's parlour. It has cost Jeremy Norman more than £1 million to recreate the atmosphere of his old Embassy Club on the same excuse, "there wasn't anywhere else I wanted to go".

Having come straight from the Prince of Wales, I was reminded of the even older embassy on the same Bond Street premises. Harold Nicholson visited it in May 1931. "We are late," he said, "and in running up the steps from the cloakroom, we push into someone whom I at first take to be a slouching prize fighter but then recognize as the Prince of Wales. He flicks cigar ash at me with a rather sly smile." No sign of our Prince of Wales at Embargo. The next best thing was

Lord Linley, who had not, by the time I left, flicked ash at anyone.

I AM beginning to wonder if I have actually seen some of the things I've seen lately. I've seen Lord Stevens of Ludgate munching popcorn, thoughtfully provided by the American ambassador at a screening of *Pretty Woman* in his embassy in Grosvenor Square. I've seen London's top policeman, Sir Peter Imbert, applauding the launch of Maisie, an extremely wide narrow boat as she slipped into the Thames at Isleworth, blessed by the Reverend Roger Royle, serenaded by the National Car Parks Jazz Band, and christened by Don Gosling's mother — also Maisie.

I've seen the Governor's parlour at the Bank of England. Sir Robin Leigh-Pemberton keeps an immaculate desk. I am adept at reading letters and memos upside down but disappointingly no scrap of paper remained upon it. And I have listened to the Massed Bands, Pipes and Drums of "my old regiment", the Royal Corps of Signals. I didn't even know that we had massed bands, but there they were Beating Retreat across the wide open spaces of Cranborne Chase. The mingling of brass and pipes as the sun sank never sounded better.

AND I've been racing again — Goodwood this time. Derek Picot, of the Sheraton Park Tower, was entertaining in the new hospitality stand, particularly for the 3.10 race, which the hotel sponsored. The course has come on since Edwardian times when luncheon picnics were the order for the gentry. A Colonel North (no relation), known as the "Nitrate King" after he made a million in Chile, was once disturbed during his alfresco feast by a downpour. He went out on the downs, haggled with some gypsies for their tent, and ate his picnic in its shelter. No need for cover last week.

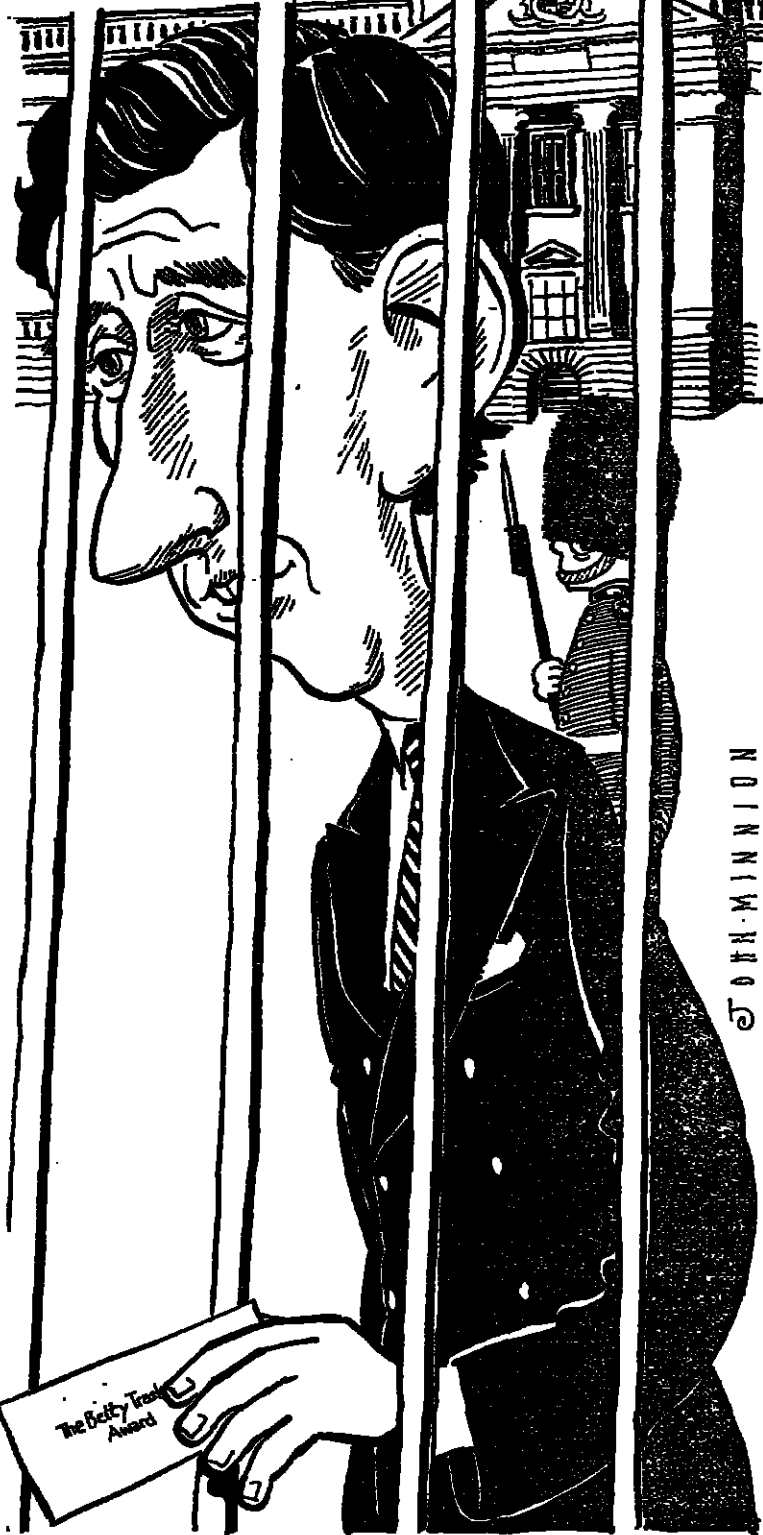
The Sheraton laid on Lord Oaksey as a post-prandial tipster. John Oaksey was better on the jokes than the forecasts. He recalled tabloid headlines about his recent romantic complications, "Lusty Lord Steals Farmer's Wife", and "Titled Tipster Ran Off With My Mum"; but it wasn't until I met Bob Champion's wife, Dee, that I started

getting profitable information. By then it was far too late to break even, but at least she saw that I finished the day only £12 down.

I CANNOT make up my mind if the fascinating story I heard from a senior hotel executive is true or yet another urban myth. Perhaps you can tell me? It happened at the Connaught Hotel some years ago. The Australian manager was faced with a diplomatic problem. A parcel arrived at the hotel indistinctly addressed. When the manager opened it to look for clues and discovered the name of the guest for whom it was intended, he also discovered that it contained a pornographic Swedish jigsaw puzzle. Deciding that he should not let the guest know that he knew, he carefully repacked it and sent it up to the suite. Only when it had been received did he find out that he had failed to put one piece of the puzzle back in the box. It depicted what I can best describe as a key piece in the design. The manager could hardly send it up separately, and he gambled that the guest was unlikely to send down for it. However, in case he did, our man locked it in an empty safe. Subsequently he lost the key.

One day, years hence, someone will prise open that long-locked safe expecting to come upon gold bricks, jewels or historic documents. They will find one single, suggestive piece from a pornographic jigsaw.

I DON'T mean to linger on pornography, but I've had an intriguing letter from George, a long-term prisoner at HM prison Glenochill, and a witty, regular correspondent. George has been running a prison discussion group "looking at issues relevant to the real world outside". Its current topic is pornography and the issues connected: censorship, degradation of women, etc. Outside experts have contributed valuably to previous discussions, but George can't find one for this subject. Presumably someone in the range of Clackmannanshire is preferable. If anyone feels up to it I'll pass their address on to George, who adds pointedly: "Not Lord Longford or Nick ('Grass Thy Neighbour') Ross. Please."



LIBBY PURVES

## If I were...

If I were the Prince of Wales, I would be fretting over the awful ennui of the prize giving business which I had to endure at an evening described here with such painful accuracy by Ned Sherrin. But I would also be chuckling quietly to myself at having thrown everyone off the scent of my real plans. There was a sticky moment when the news got out that I had ordered the Duchy of Cornwall to buy a corner shop in Liskeard, the splendidly old-fashioned Ough and Sons; but we rapidly had it rumoured that it was a mere conservation move and that a manageress would actually run it.

But the last few details of my escape plan should be in place any day now, and then I can reveal the real reason I bought the shop. The fact is that I am tired of the formless non-job of being Heir Apparent. I have done my share. I am not strictly needed in the public arena right now: my sister is brilliant at the tricky foreign visits, and Andrew and his wife are shaping up nicely as family role models and professional fun people. So I am leaving public life: the truth is that I plan to run the shop myself.

What greater joy could there be than actually putting one's principles into practice? My shop will deal only in free-range, organic, thoroughly caring foods, bought from decent farmers who respect the Earth. If Liskeard wants furniture-polish, there will be beeswax from my own hive round the back.

I am sick of merely preaching what I believe and being accused of hypocrisy. I am tired of being a big, revolving searchlight, so I am going to try lighting a small candle instead. Think of it: every cause that I

## ... The Prince of Wales

have ever tried to support can be furthered in a small but concrete way by my shop. There will be tins on the counter for Save the Children, for the Prince's Trust and for the restoration of the local almshouse roofs with sympathetic local slate. My assistants will be unemployed, disadvantaged young people whom I shall train in cleanliness, personal responsibility and correct shelf-stacking procedures.

The life of a Cornish village shopkeeper is everything I ever dreamed of as I toured the Kingdom like a ghost all my adult life. In my own shop I shall wear a brown coat with a few loose sweeties in my pocket for the local children. William and Harry, thank goodness, can be taken away from their shrill, snobby Kensington friends and go to a proper village school, on bikes. Diana will, I am sure, get over the shock and start baking. I have pointed out that she will be invaluable with the top shelves.

I suppose it will be a nine days' wonder, the heir to the British throne weighing out barley-sugars with a pencil behind his ear. But if I stick to it, steadily and boringly, even *Paris-Match* will get tired of taking the same picture. Finally I shall just be Charlie at the shop. Everyone will forget.

Until one day, an obscure, slightly paunchy and florid shopkeeper in late middle-age receives a telephone call saying he is needed urgently in the capital. I am no deserter: I shall give my counter a last wipe, turn the copper-plate sign to CLOSED, and leave William a note to re-order the Basilidon Bond and the treacle.

But they will have been good years. Maybe my best.



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## A CHILDHOOD: MARSHA HUNT

DENZIL MONEZANCE

'The concept of freedom has a godliness in America. I got to see there was no equality there'

by Ray Connolly

When Marsha Hunt was nine and living in Philadelphia, her father committed suicide. Nobody told her. The official line given to Marsha and her older brother and sister was that he had been killed in a car crash.

He had been living away in Boston at the time, a psychiatrist at Harvard, and only Marsha's mother went from their home in Philadelphia to the funeral. His death was rarely mentioned again. And when at the age of 14 she accidentally overheard two grown-ups discussing the suicide, her distress was suddenly submerged beneath a national mourning when President Kennedy was assassinated two days later.

Even now she does not know why her father took his life. It is not discussed. Although her father would send money home for the upkeep of the family, he was, by virtue of distance, a somewhat distant but very real figure.

What is perhaps most surprising in all of this is that Marsha Hunt does not appear that unusual. In the black American community of the Forties and Fifties into which she was born it was quite normal to have a father who was working in another city. The history of the American blacks was that men were transitory creatures who had to go where work could be found. Less than a century earlier, marriage had not been allowed between slaves, although slaves had been encouraged, sometimes forced, to breed freely.

Her father, by getting to Harvard just 80 years after emancipation, had outstripped virtually everyone of his culture. By choosing to become a psychiatrist he was demonstrating that "he was well ahead of the times".

So for Marsha Hunt life in Philadelphia, at first in a tenement and then a small house in a ghetto area, childhood was a dual level experience. Education and "learning to speak properly" was the most important thing in the home, but outside on the street there was another reality, other speech patterns.

Like her father, she wanted to be a doctor. Doctors and lawyers were the two professions that black people aspired to in her

background. But instead she became at various times an actress, a singer, a radio chat show hostess and now, and probably most successfully, an author. Recently her first novel, *Joy* (Random Century, £12.95), was published to some very good reviews. *Virago* will be doing a special edition in September.

With her daughter Karis Jagger at Yale and after busking, unplanned, through a series of careers ("I could never sing. I couldn't pitch a note. My idea of pitching was to just sing and if I found the band were playing B-flat and I was doing A then I'd bend the note to suit them"), she has discovered the career which fits easiest. Her next novel is almost finished.

Since *Joy* is told in the vernacular of the streets, her mother was scandalized. She had spent much of her life as a librarian and, in her sixties, graduated from Berkeley. "You never spoke like that," she complained. "Where did you learn to speak like that?"

Their home was not well off, and was governed by three women: her mother, her aunt and her grandmother. As in all matriarchal families in which the mother goes out to work, much of the immediate child-rearing fell to Marsha's grandmother.

"You have to remember that I was raised by somebody (her grandmother) who was raised by a slave, her grandmother. And the most important thing to her and my mother was not that we survived, which is what people like about today, but that we didn't go under."

"In the black community when I was growing up there were two ways to go. Either you would make every day count and get ahead or you didn't. And to be born in 1946 was like coming along when there was a racial perestroika going on in America."

Her mother was (and still is) by any standards a remarkable woman. All three children, although non-practising Catholics, were sent to Catholic schools because they were considered to offer a better education. On one occasion when Marsha, at the age of seven, had been asked to understudy a whole play but was clearly not likely to get on stage,



Marsha Hunt and, below, as a child: "I was in the city of the Liberty Bell and I pledged my allegiance to the flag every day. As a child you are not aware of colour"

her mother took a day off work to go and remonstrate with the teacher. "Take no shit," her grandmother had always said, in the way Americans do. Marsha's mother had learned her lessons well.

"The fact is that I thought I'd been asked to be understudy because I had the best memory in the class. My mother decided it was because I was one of about 20 black children in the entire school and they wanted to keep us off the stage. And, you know, I can't even remember now whether I ever got on stage to play a rabbit or a tortoise or whatever it was."

"I was a happy child. Of course as a child you are not aware of what is going on around you. Only in retrospect do you see it. But I had a great time growing up."

"I was in the city of Liberty Bell and I pledged my allegiance to the flag every day at school. As a child you are not aware of colour. But as you get older you begin to see that things are not quite like you're always being told. The concept of freedom has a godliness in America but quickly I got to see that there was no equality there."

"It would be easy to say that race is only a fraction of one's life, but the reality is that it's a huge part of your life which you pretend is a fraction because you know that the people around you cannot bear or see it."

Like every revolution, the change in racial attitudes has been and is still an ongoing revolution in the United States. There are several revolutions along the way. Even definitions change.

"Being black changed all the time, from decade to decade. In the Forties we were coloured, in the Fifties we became negroes, in the Sixties and Seventies we were black and now at the beginning of the Nineties we're called Afro-Americans" (which to this writer sounds definitely daft: labels may be neat, useful shorthand, but are not always very appropriate).

Many people would date the great leap forward in the change in racial relations in the Sixties. But to Marsha Hunt it was the Fifties when the doors really began to open.

"The blossom maybe blossomed in the Sixties but the tight bud of promise was there in the Fifties, when Autherine Lucy challenged her right to go to an all-white university in the South, and when suddenly black rock and roll music began to be heard on white radio stations. My brother became such a rock and roll freak that he ended up being a rock music critic on the *Los Angeles Times*."

"It was the Fifties that changed things. Something happened which gave opportunities to those who had never had them before. You were suddenly aware that



There was a world of alternatives for you to try."

As a natural goody-goody ("I didn't know there was an alternative to being good. If somebody told me to do something I did it. Nothing anybody ever said to me seemed unreasonable") she almost became a rebel when, at the age of 13, the behaviour of the bad girls on the block seemed attractive.

"They would wear their hair in a braid to one side, which seemed really slutty, and they would go

around with the gang. I really wanted to be bad then."

But at that point the family suddenly moved to Oakland, California, when her mother decided that it was far cheaper to send her children to Berkeley than to any of the smart colleges on the East Coast. "In Oakland it didn't seem sensible to behave badly when I had to worry about fitting in."

Oakland High School was pom-poms and football teams and in due course she followed her brother and sister to Berkeley to read psychological anthropology. The year was 1964 and Berkeley was rapidly carving an indelible image in the history of the Sixties as the place where everything happened first.

"There were protests and marches and sit-ins with Dr Spock, Joan Baez, Bobby Dylan and Stokely Carmichael. I'd had to go to university before I'd begun to do things I wasn't supposed to do. But everything we were marching for was for a good purpose. They called us lousy beatniks, but we were doing a good job."

"It was the time of the Free Speech Movement, and we were realizing that we had the right to challenge the university administration. And it was exciting being in a community that, although it was very tiny, affected the rest of

the country. It seemed to us that it was our responsibility to try to change the system."

University had never necessarily been seen as an end in itself for her, however. In truth she thinks she went there just to please her mother and in her second year she dropped out and came to London en route for Paris. That was 22 years ago and she is still here.

"I arrived with a \$1.83 in my pocket and I was put into a detention centre until I could get someone to come and pick me up. Being 19, I didn't worry. Something would turn up." It did.

She always intended to go back and finish her degree, but two years later she was on the West End stage as the glorious, Afro-styled star of *Hair*. That was a mistake, too, she says. She had actually been looking for a job as an au pair when a neighbour had told her about a musical which they were auditioning. The West End meant nothing to her so she was never frightened. She hadn't been educated to be afraid of the idea of the West End.

Her career was rolling. She doesn't really know how or why but one thing just led to another. And mostly she has been successful. "How do we get into these things," she asks. The answer probably is that she tries harder than most. Girls from her background had to.

## Poetry and the Bigfeet

Rupert Morris finds an unexpected link between Thomas Hardy and a band of bucolic minstrels, the Yetties

How many GCSE and A level students will be cursing his name now? Discuss Thomas Hardy's comic genius as revealed in *Under the Greenwood Tree*: in what ways does Hardy use tension between narrator and protagonist in either *The Mayor of Casterbridge* or *Far from the Madding Crowd*? And so on.

Roger Trim knows how they feel. When he was at school in Dorset, his English teacher was Tom Wightman, now chairman of the Thomas Hardy Society. "Let's just say I couldn't quite match his enthusiasm," says Mr Trim, a former mental nurse who turned professional musician seven years ago when he joined the Yetties as their fiddle-player.

The band's name is derived from the Yetminster and Ryme Intrinsec Junior Folk Dance Display Team, of which Bonny Sartin, Mac McCulloch and Pete Shuter were all members 30 years ago. Their songs feature mangelwurzel, marrows and milkmaids, are mercifully free of intentional innuendo and offer nothing more lascivious than an occasional roll in the hay. There is nothing too highbrow, certainly nothing that would suggest a link between the Yetties and a giant of English literature.

But two years ago, they were performing in the Dorset County Museum, and Roger Trim's fiddle was not required for one number, so he wandered backstage among the Hardy memorabilia — until he found Thomas Hardy's fiddle.

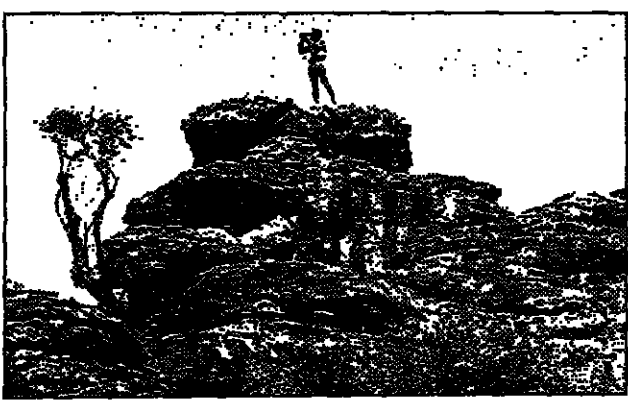
The upshot of that chance encounter was that John Dike, a fiddle-maker and restorer, restored Hardy's instrument to its former glory, and the Yetties were set to add a new routine to their repertoire.

At 5.15 this afternoon, he will play *A Rosebud in Summer* in Westminster Abbey with the violin which Thomas Hardy used to play alongside his father in Stinsford parish church. At 6.00, listeners to Radio 2 will hear the Yetties, providing a musical accompaniment to Jill Balcon's readings in an hour-long Hardy memorial programme, *The Sweetness of a Man of Stripes*.

After nearly 30 years as rustic merry-makers, the Yetties have become born-again Hardy enthusiasts, working closely with Tom Wightman and Roger Pears, director of the Dorset County Museum.

But they haven't forgotten their roots. I caught up with them a few days ago on their way to Camden Town Cider Festival — a suitably bucolic occasion for four men who wear almost identical chunky sweaters, share the soft accent of their native county (although Pete Shuter spent the first six years of his life the other side of the Somerset border), and talk fondly, rather as they sing, of camp fire get-togethers and dancing with "lots of maids".

One senses that the Yetties are really most at home with girls on turnip patches, astonished vicars and farmers' boys being careless with the manure.



Rock of ages: no promise of aborigine participation

## Reaping rewards of eco-friendliness

The unknown German who once painted the slogan "Tourismus = Terrorismus" perhaps overstated his case. But the key speaker at a 1988 conference of the Organization for European Economic Co-operation who said: "For 30 years travel agencies and tourists have pursued a scorched earth policy, abandoning saturated regions once their landscape has been ruined and moving on to new territory," received an ovation. Slowly the world was waking up to what its stampede to admire the picturesque was costing.

Even more slowly, "eco-tourism", the buzzword term for forms of travel that broaden the mind without widening footprints into motorways, began to spread. Practical measures have been slowly coming, and despite the greater publicity given to the ravage of ivory-poachers, Kenya deserves more honourable mention for its ban, in the 1970s, on curious taken from slaughtered beasts (a recent World Wildlife Fund for Nature report lists the killing of species to make souvenirs at least as large an environmental threat as the land-degradation that comes with the crowds).

A more recent success story has been Costa Rica: squeezed in a part of the world made

unfashionable by wars and coups, the Central American republic has increased its tourism income by 20 per cent in the past year by a hard sell of its verdant national parks. It has succeeded in persuading foreign investors to buy into its development programme, and used these funds to show peasants how there was money to be made from showing trees rather than felling them.

That key element, persuading local inhabitants that natural surroundings which they take for granted, or even over-exploit, can bring prosperity, has worked elsewhere. In Rwanda, the Central African home of a dwindling population of mountain gorillas, poaching for hides and felling forest trees had made this one of the most threatened species on earth. So the Rwandan government and conservation agencies set up a scheme to "introduce" the gorillas to their human neighbours. As a result, Rwandans now patrol to protect the animals, have re-forested vast tracts, and earn better livings from tourism industry which last year brought 8,000 gorilla-watchers from wealthy lands.

Brazil, a nation on very few lists of the eco-friendly, also has a success story, concerning turtles. Until a year or so ago the only relationship the people of Praia do Forte, on

the north-east coast, had with turtles was they ate their eggs. Now they are paid to patrol the beaches, and reap the rewards of two hotels and a village camp set up to bring the interested to observe the huge reptiles.

Elsewhere, Dominica has an international campaign to sell itself as the "Nature Island". Venezuela's national airline has a programme for gentle exploitation of the thrilling Angel Falls in the interior, and a conference later this year will discuss how Antarctica can be opened to the bold and curious without their footprints becoming an indelible legacy on the ice.

In its case studies on how eco-tourism is working and could be expanded in Mexico, Ecuador, Costa Rica, Dominica and Belize, the WWF singled out one tour operator who had made his guests pledge a sum for every bird spotted — and raised nearly £10,000 to help purchase a threatened forest.

Few travel agencies are so favourably mentioned when eco-tourism is debated. But they have sensed the wind and are coming around. One said: "It is no coincidence that a big travel company planning its video didn't want a dolly-bird in a bikini as the star, but talked of going for David Bellamy."

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## FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

Italy has its national pride riding on its success as host of the World Cup, Paul Bompard reports. But will everything be ready in time?

## Kicking about the cultural football

ROME  
2 JUNE  
1990

Bettina Elten, a restorer, is working 65ft above the ground on the baroque facade of Rome's church of St Vincent and St Anastasio. She can look down across the piazza to the Trevi fountain, which is also under restoration. "We hoped the facade would be ready in time," she says, while examining a chertub's foot for hidden cracks. "Over there" — indicating the scaffolding coming down from the fountain — "they'll be almost finished, but we won't be ready in time."

"Will it be ready in time?" is the question being asked all over Italy. It may refer to disruptive roadworks, a new urban railway, or the restoration of a historic building. The deadline, of course, is the World Cup, which begins on Friday, and Italy is expected to present itself to the rest of the world as a paragon of culture, beauty and efficiency.

According to the optimists, mostly those who are directly involved, the success of the whole affair will be a long-term boost to Italy's image. But many Italians have their doubts.

The answer to "will it be ready in time?" is that most of the projects probably will be ready, including the stadiums, but some will not. They will be finished later, as the nation recovers from the depression which will almost certainly follow the month-long tournament and the non-stop programmes of concerts, film festivals, art exhibitions and other events.

At the latest count more than £3,000 million had been spent on projects connected to the World Cup. These include more than the restructuring or rebuilding of stadiums in 12 cities. New roads in and around the cities, flyovers, new parking areas and new telecommunications facilities have meant digging up roads almost everywhere, and local railways, which are designed to whisk visitors from one World Cup city to another, have been constructed.

Although Italy knew in 1984 that it would host the 1990 World Cup, the government only earmarked money for the necessary work in June 1989. The result has

been a mad rush to do everything at the last minute, making life hell for the inhabitants of a city such as Rome, which is chaotic at the best of times. Many of the projects are already being criticized as an unnecessary expense, and the assignment of building contracts has caused much argument.

Public opinion is divided: there are those who feel this is a good chance to show off Italy to the rest of the world, and those who believe it will be profitable for some — those involved in the construction projects, for instance — and fun for those who like football, but an annoyance and expense for the rest of the population. A common complaint is that if there is money to build new stadiums, roads and heliports, why are so many of the country's hospitals and schools falling to bits?

Everyone, however, shares feelings of trepidation about what the event will actually be like. Will the country be visited by orderly crowds of cultured foreigners eager to take in Renaissance frescoes and baroque churches, or will it be invaded and trampled by hordes of grunting barbarians with a taste for cheap wine and over-cooked pasta.

Apart from 7,000 accredited journalists and photographers, nobody seems to know exactly how many people will be coming to Italy for the event. An initial estimate of 5 million presences, or days spent in the country, now seems excessive. Hotel owners who had prepared to take in a tidal wave of visitors are now complaining that it looks like becoming a trickle, and many of their regular guests are apparently not coming because of the World Cup.

Media reports swing from accounts of ruthless security measures and alcohol bans in the areas likely to be visited by the feared British supporters, to descriptions of the "VIP areas" near each stadium, where the rich and famous are to be entertained.

Not all Italians are football mad. An opinion poll conducted by the Censis research institute revealed that 21.5 per cent of the population loathes the sport and the remaining 78.5 per cent are not all enthusiasts. A weekly news

magazine recently ran a story, "Flight from the Mondiale, a survival manual", which offered advice on how to keep out of the World Cup's way. Many say they will take their holidays this month, preferably on a Pacific island where nobody has ever heard of Diego Maradona.

In general, the intellectuals are opposed to the Mondiale. Federico Zeri, one of Italy's best-known art critics and historians, dismisses it as "an insignificant event". Last year the film-maker Nanni Moretti said: "The World Cup is a vile circus. I'm sick of it a year before it begins."

ROME  
2 JUNE  
1990

In the frenzy of preparation, shops are filling up with a mass of gadgetry connected to Italia '90: lapel badges, umbrellas, ashtrays, matches, ties, T-shirts, pens... All 12 cities involved — Rome, Milan, Turin, Udine, Bologna, Cagliari, Bari, Florence, Verona, Genoa, Naples and Palermo — are organizing entertainments and cultural events, although two weeks before the first kick-off the Ministry of Tourism and Entertainment in Rome had no idea of what was being done.

Florence, for instance, is unveiling the restored frescoes by Masaccio in the Cappella Brancacci. At the Forte di Belvedere overlooking the Arno, Ferrari has an exhibition of its cars from the Fifties and Sixties. The nine vehicles, each with a glass cube around it to control temperature and humidity, will be shown on the bastions of the fortress.

Each city will have classical and rock music concerts. On the night before the World Cup final, José Carreras, Plácido Domingo and Luciano Pavarotti will sing at the Baths of Caracalla in Rome. Then there are art exhibitions, film festivals and a host of special events to fill in the space between matches. The national tobacco monopoly is marketing two brands of cigarettes: "Azzurra" (the Italian national colour is blue) and "MS Italia". And the Italian automobile club has set up a switchboard with the grammatically dubious name of "Italia No

Problems" to assist visiting motorists. The success or failure of the event is closely bound up with national pride, although this has generally been the case with the World Cup. But for Italy, a nation which is torn between being the world's fifth industrial power and a rich modern nation on the one hand, and the home of Europe's most inefficient public services on the other (and not forgetting the skeletons in the southern closet, such as the Mafia), the presentation is crucial.

That only a small proportion of the World Cup audience will see, or even be interested in, what goes on outside the stadiums is beside the point. Italians need to bolster their self-esteem in a particularly difficult period. Faith in political



Problems" to assist visiting motorists.

institutions and in the prospects of eradicating some of the country's most deep-rooted ills is at its lowest level in years. In the early Eighties, when terrorism had been almost completely vanquished and the economy was booming after the grim Seventies, most Italians were convinced that in 10 years Italy would eliminate its shortcomings and become a model of modern, creative efficiency. Today, however, Italians have public services that are worse than those 10 years ago — one out of two telephone calls fails to get through, and a letter can take more than a week to get from Rome to Milan, assuming it gets there at all. Trains and air transport are often on strike, and the health service, which absorbs enormous amounts of

money, is usually an insult to those who cannot afford private treatment. And the political establishment often seems more concerned with its own perpetuation than with the needs of its electors.

In the south, the Mafia, Camorra and the 'Ndrangheta, three facets of organized crime, thrive in spite of special laws and stepped up investigations and trials. The realization that some local politicians are connected with organized crime and the distribution of state contracts for the development of the country's most poverty-stricken regions has done little for the national amour propre.

Italy is also the home of Fiat, Olivetti and Montedison; of Valentino and Ferrari; of possibly

the best food and some of the best wine in the world; it is a nation which, according to a Unesco estimate, has inherited almost half of the world's important works of art and historic buildings, and a country that can boast unparalleled natural beauty from the almost African islands around Sicily to the glaciers of the Alps.

Italy, therefore, is hurriedly cleaning baroque facades, restoring monuments and trying to complete ambitious construction projects in time for the World Cup. The organizers say this is a chance in a lifetime to present a good image of Italy and to create infrastructures which were long overdue. The pessimists forecast doom and chaos. The reality will undoubtedly be an intoxicating cocktail of both.

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## MUSEUMS

**FITZWILLIAM'S FINEST:** Acquisitions made during the past seven years, including Egyptian antiquities, coins and ceramics. Fitzwilliam Museum, Trumpington Street, Cambridge (0223 332900). Tues-Sat, 10am-4.55pm; Sun, 2.15-4.55pm. Free. Until Aug 26.

**OUT OF THE DOLLS' HOUSE:** Mass of material, much of it researched for the eight-part BBC2 series in 1988, about the changing social role of women. Astley Chestham Art

## EXHIBITIONS

Gallery, Trinity Street, Stalybridge, Cheshire (061 338 2708). Mon, Tues, Wed and Fri, 1-7.30pm; Sat, 9am-4pm. Free. Until June 20.

**SILVER SAGA:** Exhibition marking discovery of the 8,500-piece Viking silver hoard found on the banks of the Ribble near Preston in May 1984. Weapons, loot and grave goods on view from 40 collections in Britain and Europe.

Liverpool Museum, William Brown Street, Liverpool (051 207 0001). Mon-Sat, 10am-5pm; Sun 2-5pm. Free. Until Sept 2.

**GLORIOUS GUARDS:** Three hundred years of history of the Guards, including famous battles from Tangiers in 1690 to the Falklands in 1982. The Guards Museum, Wellington Barracks, Birdcage Walk, London SW1 (071-930 4466). Daily, except Friday, 10am-4pm. Adult £2, child £1, serving guardsmen and their families free.



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## Pressed into service

More than 100 years of printing processes have been preserved by the National Trust for Scotland

Everything will be much as it was two years ago, when Kenneth Hannah first walked into Robert Small's printing works in the small Borders town of Innerleithen. Mr Hannah had spent 40 years as a typesetter in the printing industry, but was overwhelmed by what he found behind the shop front. He immediately saw its potential and successfully applied for the job of National Trust for Scotland representative.

The smell of paraffin, ink and oil still lingered in the building three years after 76-year-old Cowan Small, the founder's grandson, shut down the machinery for the last time. Robert Small started in business selling boots and shoes, and bought the printing works in 1866 for £500.

When Mr Hannah discovered the works, the desk in the front office was covered with a film of dust, and littered with the last day's job sheets, cigarette packets, bottles of ink, a radio set, the keys to the locked ledgers and the clerk's spectacles.

One of the more unusual finds was the collection of 51 "guardbooks". These contain pasted-up samples of every job printed, going back over 100 years, documenting the social, political and economic life of this small community.

In one of the books, some of which are 12in thick, is the funeral notice for Sir Walter Scott's daughter. There are also labels for the woollen industry, including one for Saks of Fifth Avenue, which Small's printed for companies connected to Borders' mills. Other books contain dance tickets and notices of golf fixtures, letterheadings, dinner menus, chemists' prescription leaflets and notices for meetings.

In the caseroom, where type was set, Mr Hannah found Small's last job: "Closing-down sale from today to Saturday, April 26, 1985; newspapers, magazines and cigarettes not included in the sale."

"If someone had bought the property they would no doubt have sold the machinery for scrap and bulldozed the building," Mr Hannah says. "It was in a terrible state. Now the printing works will continue, and be kept as part of the nation's heritage."

At the turn of the century Small's had a workforce of 15, 10 of them setting type. Mrs

Adeline Smith started working there in 1927, for 15 shillings a week, and was there when it closed. "Cowan hardly spent any money on the place," she says. "Local folk would think that if you worked at Small's you must be well off, but he wasn't that generous with pay. The machinery was noisy and the gas engine that drove it filled the works with smoke."

It was the condition of the works, largely untouched since it opened in the middle of the last century, that drew the National Trust for Scotland to buy it. The trust has spent about £350,000 on its restoration, and it will be officially opened on June 25.

The roof has been replaced, painted in the same light blue, and carefully "distressed" by the trust's design studio in Edinburgh to give it an authentic, grubby look.

The guardbooks will be specially housed. The pages will be turned every day so that visitors can see what was printed on that day 100 years ago, and there will be facsimiles of one or two books that visitors can handle.

The reconditioned presses will once more hum in the machine room. "Most printing works changed from letterpress to lithography, but Small's went the other way," Mr Hannah says. Lithographic machinery was installed in 1886, but the company then switched to letterpress.

"Letterpress is far more labour intensive, but Small was very cost conscious. That is one reason why he didn't modernize and continued using lithography. The plates were costly to make and new machinery expensive to install. Now there must be very few, if any, letterpress printing works left."

The Reliance Wharfedale flat-bed printing press, built in Yorkshire, probably in the 1880s, is capable of running off 1,000 posters an hour. It

was also used for printing the local newspaper. "Somebody would feed in the sheets one at a time, ready to pull on the check handle if it missed a sheet," Mr Hannah says.

The Heidelberg Platen press was recently restored in Germany. With automatic feeding and delivery of paper, such machines were used by almost every jobbing printer between 1930 and 1960, to print letter and bill headings. At full speed it could run off more than 4,000 impressions an hour.

A Glasgow printing works, John S. Burns, has donated an Arab Platen press to replace one used by Small's. This machine was used principally to print tickets and labels, 1,000 an hour at full speed. There are also two Falcon "clam shell" machines, bought in 1905 for £99 each, which could run off 1,000 programmes and hand bills an hour.

The two water wheels, which drove the machinery until 1930, and a Crossley gas engine, have been reconstructed by local blacksmith Stan Graham. The wheels will turn again, although the presses will be electrically powered.

The job sheets indicated that Small's used a pen ruling machine to create rules on business stationery. One such machine was tracked down in Perthshire, and it is now being rebuilt.

Another two machines were used to punch brass eyelets in the "swing tickets" that were attached to garments made in the local mills.

Grays School of Art in Aberdeen intends to donate a Columbian Eagle Hand-proofing press, also for the caseroom, used for pulling proofs to check galleys before sending the type to the machine room.

In the drawers of the caseroom are more than 30 metal typecases in various sizes, and five racks, each with eight shelves of wooden poster type.

On opening day, the printing presses will once again roll, to produce a special edition of the *St Ronan's Standard and Effective Advertiser*, the local weekly newspaper that printed its last edition in 1916.

## Alastair Guild

Robert Small's Printing Works, Innerleithen High Street, 30 miles south of Edinburgh, opens on June 25.

COLLECTING  
New ink for old pens

FIVE months ago a Dunhill-Namiki pen was sold at Bonhams for £920; three months later a similar pen made £2,000 — sure signs that a good fountain pen is becoming the latest accessory for the fashion-conscious.

Andreas Lambrou, who has been a collector since he was 12, has written a book about one of the fastest growing collectors' markets. It traces the development of the implement from its beginnings in the 1880s through the histories and rivalries of companies in Britain, France, Germany, the United States and Italy.

While many salerooms have caught on to the demand for pens, the centre is Bonhams in Chelsea, London. Alexander Crum Ewing, who is in charge of sales, already has 250 examples gathered for his next auction on July 13.

"When we got a few in here they seemed to do well and now they are a regular feature. The last sale did just under £50,000," he says.

The sale showed two levels of market operation. Buyers from Paris, New York and Hong Kong bid for a Mont Blanc and two Dunhill-Namiki pens but the vast majority of lots, sometimes containing several pens, went for less than £100 — for example, a Macniven and Cameron Waverley eye-drop pen with a gold over-feed.

Waverley nib in its presentation case, together with a Waterman No 12 and a jade Parker Duofold, went for £48.

Vintage pieces are highly prized for their rarity and hand-finish. Properly maintained, they will write perfectly, Mr Crum Ewing says.

Classic pens from the 1920s are more functional and, with solid gold nibs, are well-suited to those used to ballpoints. They can be bought for between £30 and £150.

The 1920s to '40s was a period of great rivalry between Waterman, Sheaffer and Parker. The latter always seemed to be one step ahead and models were seldom kept in production for more than a few years. Parker brought out the first pen made in plastic, in jade green, in 1926. The Vacuumatic, advertised with more ink capacity to a Depression-era America, won acceptance in 1933 and then came the familiar Parker 51 in 1939. It marked the company's 51st anniversary.

The 1930s saw marbled pens. The art deco Waterman "Patrician" did not survive the Depression but examples do turn up and a turquoise specimen fitted with a "Patrician" nib from 1929 fetched £260 in March.

The Dunhill-Namiki, with its lacquered barrel, is in a class of its own. Dunhill sold them under a joint venture at £12.10s in the 1930s. An outstanding example was sold in the Bonhams sale for £2,800.

Mr Crum Ewing believes "everybody can relate to a fountain pen because most people have had one. It has universal appeal."

## John Shaw

Bonhams, 65-69 Lons Road, Chelsea, London SW10 (071-351 7111). Sale July 13. Fountain Pens, Vintage and Modern, by Andreas Lambrou. Classic Pens Limited, PO Box 826, Epping, Essex, CM16 6DT (0579-823869). Costs £25 plus £2.50 postage and packing.

## SALES GUIDE

**MEISSEN MAGIC:** Thirty lots of Meissen figures in 664-lot sale of English and Continental ceramics. Meissen estimates from £150-£250 to £2,000-£3,000. Christie's, South Kensington, 95 Old Brompton Road, London SW7 (071-581 7611). Viewing: today, 10am-2pm. Sale: Mon, 10.30am-2pm.

**FURNITURE:** Oak, elm and walnut pieces are outstanding in a 1,000-lot, two-day sale. Fine set of six Windsor chairs (£5,000-£6,000). Also silver, porcelain and pictures.

Russell Baldwin and Bright, Fine Art Sale Rooms, Rylands Road, Leominster, Herefordshire (0568 611168). Viewing: Tues, 10am-4pm. Sale: Wed and Thurs, 10am.

**STAFFORDSHIRE:** Dogs, little girls and lovers abound among 142-lots of Staffordshire figures. Good model of Florence Nightingale among the rarities (£250-£500). Bonhams, Montpelier Street, Knightsbridge, London SW7 (071-584 9161). Viewing: tomorrow, 2.30-5pm. Sale: Mon, 11am.



MOTORING CHALLENGE

Victories of patience

Graham Rock, right, reports on the last stages of the London-Peking rally and the final triumph of optimism over common sense: arrival in Tiananmen Square, nine countries, 9,330 miles and 52 days from Marble Arch



Splendour. Tickets will be available from the charity and the auction house.

Norma and her photographer husband, Morris, are preparing a book on the Motoring Challenge. It will be published later this year and she hopes her efforts will raise more than £500,000.

For a few, Hong Kong will not be far enough. Jim Rogers and Tabitha Estabrook hope to take their BMW motor cycles through Japan, Alaska and America to complete a round-the-world trip.

Our marathon drive has inspired some to create challenges of their own in the future. One will run from Alaska to Tierra del Fuego, and another will travel the coastline of South America.

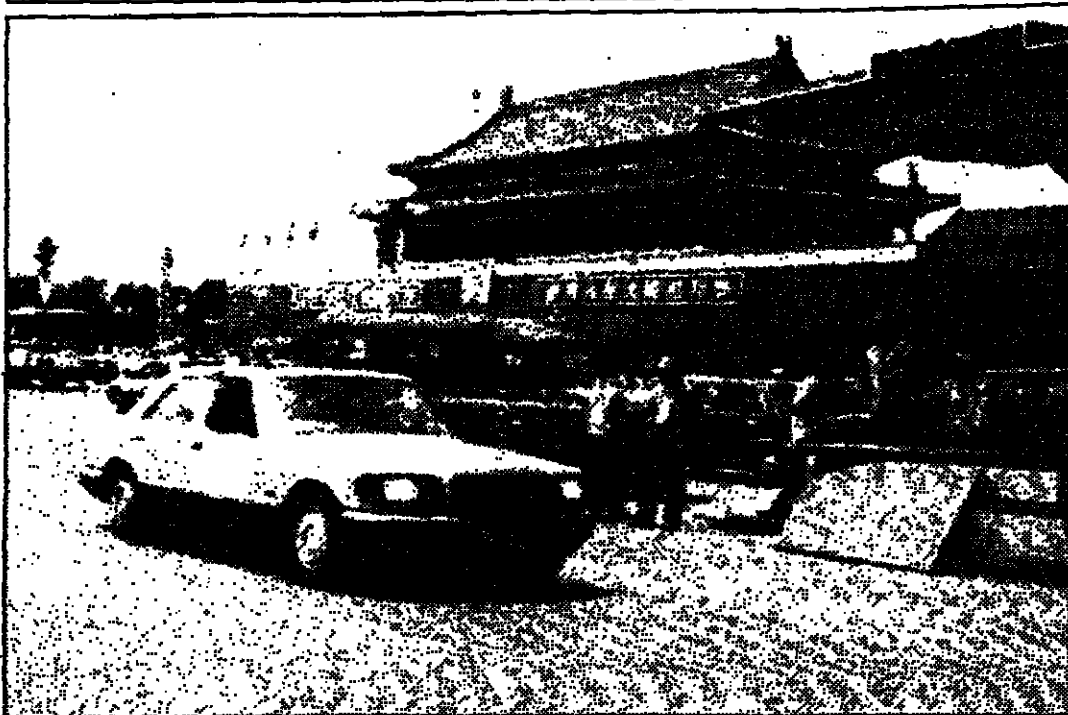
A Mercedes 300 SE should be able to cope with either, judged on its performance from London to Peking. It gave us a Cunard ride, without a moment's cause for concern. But if you are thinking of driving through a desert, make sure you have air-conditioning.

It was a relief to meet Mr Chen of Maersk Shipping. At one time the thinking had been to buy a vehicle and sell it in Peking but, the notion of sticking a notice in Mandarin on the windscreen saying "One careful owner, a snip at 200,000 Yuan", and driving round in search of a buyer would have been intolerable. However, Mr Chen would make the documentation a doddle.

In the Gobi, the Mercedes stuck to the crooked and narrow, but the four-wheel drive vehicles were in their element, and none was more effective than the two LWT Hummers. American-built military vehicles. They averaged 10 miles to the gallon, and wouldn't be much use for popping out for the shopping, but they were invincible over rough terrain and will be on display at the Farnborough Air Show in September.

The Hummers carried a satellite telephone link which was used to keep in contact with civilization when the local lines were no better than two tin cans and thousands of miles of string. We were charged at cost, \$10 a minute, and in Peking the Hummer team decided to donate half of the revenue to the Save the Children Fund and half to Habitat for Humanity, an American-based self-help building charity.

If the Hummers were the heroes of the sands, there were some heroines on the road. Pamela Durham completed the challenge



End of the road: the Mercedes behaved perfectly - but air conditioning would have been welcome

This is an indescribably solemn moment for us. The ovations of the crowd are loud and full. We remain seated in our places, confused, stunned." So wrote Luigi Barzini after winning the 1907 Peking to Paris race with Prince Scipio Borghese, and it was little different for those who completed the London to Peking Motoring Challenge this week.

Travelling hopefully was the keynote to this epic journey and, as the Mercedes swept through Tiananmen Square, 9,330 miles and 52 days from Marble Arch, the arrival was inevitably shrouded in the anti-climax of achievement.

The crowds had seemed almost non-existent in our final 30 miles, although there must have been many thousands along the way. We drove to the capital of China in convoy, with the oldest car at the head of the column, and the 61 vehicles were greeted by bands and lion dances as we arrived at the hotel.

For John Brydon and his colleagues in the 1912 Lancia Simplex Speedster it was a triumph of optimism over common sense, and the rest of us shared in his glory. If on occasions the challenges were less than diplomatic, none the less we had been unofficial ambassadors for 11 nations through the nine countries of our epic journey.

During the final stages there were a few scares. A sidecar slipped from its mounting on the 1939 BSA, and the 1930 Bugatti lost a front spring, which was temporarily repaired by Hans Aebi, who drove the 1920 Rolls-Royce. His ingenuity saved the day on more than one occasion.

On the last leg, the 1930 model A Ford suffered a puncture, but Don Saunders changed the wheel quickly enough to suggest that he

would have held his own in the Ferrari Grand Prix pit team.

The final 800 miles from Xian had passed, like many before, slowly and with frustration, except for one stretch of motorway 20 miles long. Even then, when we were bowling along at a decent clip, a male and cart veered in front of us with a timing which suggested that the driver had wanted to make his move until he could see the tread on our tyres.

We ambled through the eastern provinces, more industrialized than the west, with some of China's most outstanding scenery lost behind a permanent haze of pollution. For a time we ran parallel to the Xian-Peking railway line and spent a few sentimental hours accompanied by the forgotten melodies of steam trains.

In one village, a donkey pulled a riderless wagon, clearly knowing where it was going, and moving with a greater sense of purpose than our convoy, still tightly controlled by the traffic police.

We broke our journey at Song Shan mountain to visit the Shaolin temple and the Wushu martial arts school, where we were given an impressive demonstration of the pupils' skills. There have been similar events in Lanzhou. Pro-teenagers went through a few moves, but then the action deteriorated into what seemed to be an aerobics class for young grandmothers. As entertainment it ranked below Chinese opera and just above a political speech.

The London to Peking Motoring Challenge was not quite what some participants had anticipated. If they had been hoping for a Pullman ride, they were often disappointed, although occasionally enterprise was rewarded. On our final night before Peking, we arrived at our hotel to

find that a new, more luxurious wing had been opened recently. However, the rooms allocated to us were old, humid, dusty and deemed unacceptable after a lizard was discovered lazing in one of them. Most challengers simply checked into the more expensive quarter and left without paying, anticipating that the organizers would fulfill their obligation to provide the best available accommodation.

Not that everything was perfect in the upgraded suites. I asked a member of the staff to check why the air-conditioning was not working. "It is not for air-conditioning, sir, it is for changing the wind," was the reply.

The previous night we had found the fire escapes on each floor locked and, having asked the key lady to open ours, we took charge of the padlock until the following morning.

No, it wasn't all a breeze. If, as you dip your toasted soldiers into your golden egg yokes you yearn for the excitement of the London to Peking road, let me describe one typical official notice, posted for our perusal: "Luggage outside room 530. Breakfast 6 o'clock. Departure 7 o'clock." Under this a challenge had added: "Nightmare continues."

There were times, all in all, when we would rather have been in Elm Street, but they were relatively few and the selective paintbrush of nostalgia will soon erase them.

For some, the journey is not over. Earlier today 20 vehicles and drivers, including Norma Joseph, left for Hong Kong, on behalf of the Save the Children Fund. She has been collecting valuable items along the route to be auctioned by Sotheby's of Sussex on September 22 during an "Evening of Oriental

CAMPUS

No obstacle to learning

Handicapped students set the example, Gary David Rawnsley argues

There's an old saying goes: "There's always someone worse off than yourself". This is true. As someone who has suffered from Crohn's Disease and arthritis for the past six years I look around and see people with illness, disease and handicaps, and I am thankful that I am able to be a student with my senses intact, an unimpaired ability to reason, think, write and speak, and all my own limbs and organs. But in many cases the physical signs are not obvious, and one would never know that these people are ill. They suffer in silence, and because they look all right, they are not considered to be seriously ill. Crohn's Disease is one such ailment.

When it was first diagnosed, I was nearly crippled by its side-effect, arthritis, and so I

had to get a taxi to school and back, and walk with the aid of a stick. The reception was good from a sufferer's point of view: people could see I was ill. As soon as I got rid of the stick, I was just one in a crowd again. I'm not after sympathy or special treatment; just some recognition that I am ill.

On my last night in hospital, I cried. I am not ashamed to admit it. I cried because I was going home the next morning, and I knew that I could not last another night in that place. But I am thankful for the experience, because it made me a much stronger person. I realised that I must fight the disease, and grab all opportunities presented to me. I did my 0 levels practically in one year (not by choice, I spent most of the fourth year in hospital or at home), and stayed on to do A levels.

Yet I found my fellow sixth-formers rather ambivalent about their ambitions and futures. Many of them thought me strange because I chose to work hard. It got to the point where I had to justify myself for getting good grades in exams and for essays, for

doing the work set, and for submitting projects on time. But I knew my goals, and I knew that I was constantly battling against Crohn's Disease. Many would have time off for colds, headaches and feeling sick, and I would think: "I'd like to see you go through what I've had to."

I fight to dismiss the stereotype image of students which says we are all lazy and a burden on the taxpayer. But that is a difficult task when so many live up to it. I see too many students drifting through their courses, only to end up cramming come exam time. But I feel privileged to be where I am, because I feel privileged just to be. I see students simply not turning up for lectures or tutorials, for no good reason, and I wonder, "Why are they here?"

I began university with the (naïve?) belief that students are committed to their work for the simple reason that they have decided to embark on a university education. After all, they're giving up three years of their life to it. But I was wrong. Many fail to see that university is both a means to an end,

and an end in itself. It is only when one accepts both of these that the true meaning and value of a university education is realised. Opportunities are not presented to us very often in life; they must be grabbed as they pass by.

As for me, I'm still having bouts of Crohn's Disease; it's neither as good nor as bad as it could be, but I'm fighting it. I'm also working hard, and perhaps because I am ill I have a reason to.

I don't wish my illness on anyone. But maybe if those people who are simply wasting their time had to endure what thousands are going through every moment of every day, they might begin to appreciate their status as students and to value the education they are receiving, and to be thankful for the opportunity to experience it. I see students in wheelchairs, students with real, observable physical disabilities, who have to work their hardest just to be there. They're not invisible. The other students can see them. Aren't they a good enough role model of what a student should be?

Gary David Rawnsley is a second-year student at the University of Leeds.

Saving an island for the birds

LUNDY Island, which this week has been almost overrun with birdwatchers in search of an errant ancient murrelet, has survived as an unspoiled refuge for wildlife thanks to the combined resources of the Landmark Trust and the National Trust's coastline campaign, Enterprise Neptune.

The island, off Devon in the Bristol Channel, was bought for the National Trust by Sir Jack Hayward 21 years ago for £150,000.

"We weren't quite brave enough at the time to take on Lundy alone," says Peter Broomhead, the National Trust's director for Devon. Landmark supplied the bravery, underwrote the trust's acquisition, and guaranteed to restore and maintain the island for 60 years.

Since 1969, Landmark has spent almost 20 times the original donation on the island. When every screw, nail, joist and bag of cement has to

Lundy is small, lonely and a paradise for birdwatchers, Eluid Price reports

be brought over from the mainland, it has not been easy.

The island's power comes from an underground gas supply and a wind-driven generator, backed up by diesel. And they recycle exhaustively. During last summer's drought a water-diviner sprang to their aid: now two 100ft boreholes complement numerous catchment tanks.

Landmark has repaired every building and dry-stone wall. It provides full-time employment for 20 on the island and for 10 on the mainland. "They are," Mr Broomhead says with some satisfaction, "the ideal tenants."

Wendy Puddy, the wife of Lundy's agent, John Puddy, must be as near to perfection as a tenant can get. While he, an engineer, supervises his

inventive energy systems and administers the island, she works as island secretary and feeds the pigs and milks the cows.

Eighteen months ago she had their first baby, Emma, five weeks early, and on the mainland, courtesy of the helicopter service.

"Twenty people is a very small community," she says. "There is one pub and a fixed set of people to make friends with, or fall out with. You are not just taking on a job, but a whole way of life."

The Puddys have been on Lundy for nine years. The staff tend to stay no longer than 10 years. But with its own ship, the 300-ton MS Oldenburg, running daily in the summer and twice weekly in the winter, the community is less isolated than those in many rural areas. Lundy is three

miles long by half a mile wide, rising 400ft out of the Atlantic, 22 miles off the north Devon coast. It is treeless, save for its rhododendron valleys, and has about as much cosy charm as the Falklands. An established puffin colony - Lundy is Norse for puffin - and the breeding grounds for grey seals, Sika deer and Soay sheep make Lundy a naturalist's dream. It is also one of the most important breeding grounds for sea birds in the West, home for guillemot and kittiwake, pit-stop for bobolink and warbler; more than 280 species have been recorded here.

The appearance of the ancient murrelet, a member of the auk family from the Pacific, was exceptional even by Lundy's standards.

Lundy Open Day departs Budeford 10.30am, June 13. Details: The Landmark Trust, Shottesbrooke, Maidenhead, Berkshire SL6 3SW (062 882 5925).

Sold successfully  
Sold by Sotheby's

Over the past twenty years the value of some antique furniture has risen by 2001% and interest has never been greater, Georgian chairs in particular are achieving excellent prices at auction.

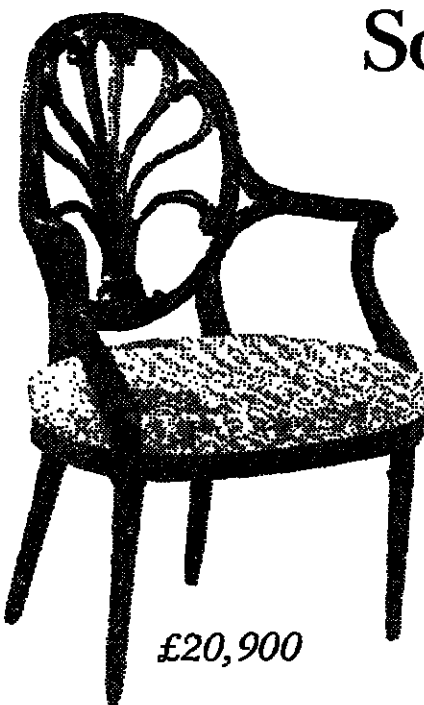
This George III mahogany armchair is typical of the neo-classicism of the period (circa 1775) with its leaf-carved frame and arms and the curved 'anthemion' or honeysuckle flower back. In 1989 it sold for £20,900 and last month we sold a pair of almost identical chairs for £59,400.

This handsome caned mahogany library armchair or 'bergère' dates from the time of the Battle of Trafalgar, circa 1805. Combining elegance of design with the practicalities of comfort, it achieved £12,320 at auction in November last year.

Claw and ball feet, seen on this early 18th century burr walnut-veneered armchair, circa 1720, are a familiar feature of much Georgian furniture as are the curved 'cabriole' legs. This chair sold for £13,200.

If you have any similar items and would like to arrange a free valuation, please telephone Joscelyn Evans on 071-408 5287 (office hours only) or write to her at 34 - 35 New Bond Street, London W1A 2AA.

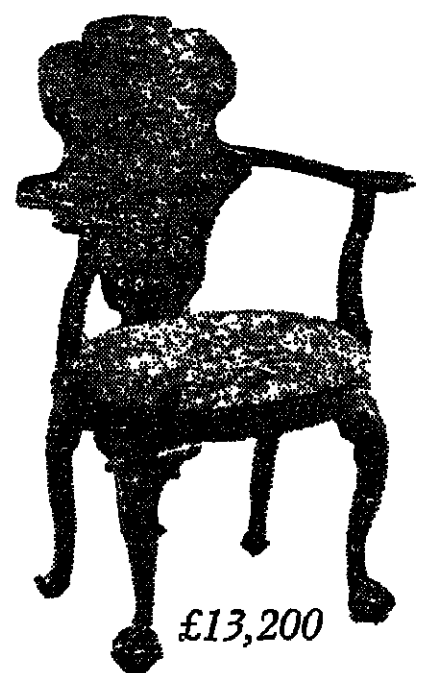
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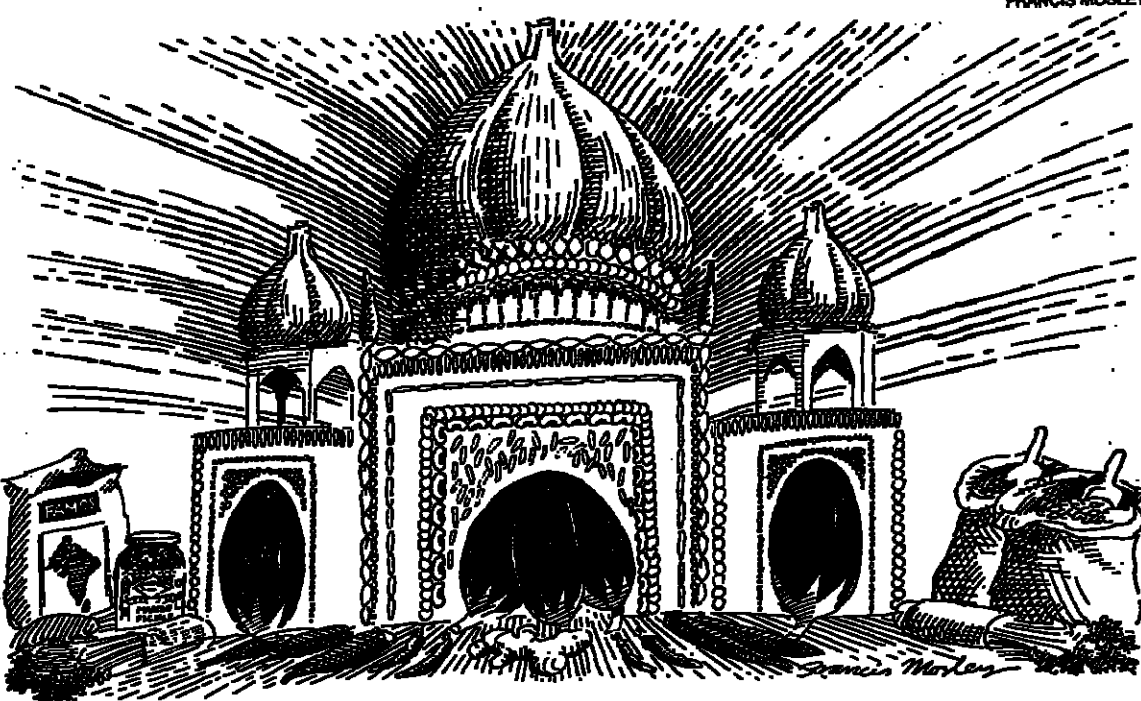
## EATING OUT

Jonathan Meades visits a selection of Asian restaurants, some of which outspice the average 'Indian'

## Subcontinental divides

The fact that a two-course — at a push, two-and-a-half course — lunch for one person who wasn't drinking alcohol in a restaurant called Sallou's in Kinnerton Street should cost £37 brings that person back to last week's subject of value for money, price/quality, call it what you will. Sallou's is a Pakistani restaurant, perhaps that should be the Pakistani restaurant for, despite all those places with names such as The Anglo-Pak and despite the number of people with Pakistani forbears in Britain's subcontinental restaurant trade, there is no other establishment which is so wholeheartedly dedicated to specifically Pakistani dishes. Of course, a "specifically Pakistani dish" was until 43 years ago no such thing: partition in particular and the shifting of borders in general does not change a place's cooking, or only very slowly. Sallou's is not, perhaps, so different from countless other tandoori establishments, then? Well, it is different, obviously so, in price if nothing else. Two people could easily spend £80, and if they were that fond of drink they might spend £100. Our expectation of this subcontinental cooking should be cheap was certainly not fostered by the earliest restaurants, that opened between the wars — it came with the exponential growth in the number of curry houses in the late Fifties and early Sixties. The comical subculture of vindaloo machismo was occasioned by the availability of curry to every squaddie, every student, every hoddie, every oaf who has ever had enough Dutch courage to enter a tattoo parlour and have "Chicken Dhansak" inscribed on his forehead.

The prices at Sallou's clearly require that it be compared not to the mass of subcontinental joints, but to division-one French places. Such a comparison is justified; there is as much talent in the kitchen as in many French places. If the service is slow it is because the kitchen does not rely on pre-preparation and cooks to order; at least, things certainly taste that way. The freshness, cleanliness, and precision of the spicing are rare and probably matched only at Jamdani in Fitzrovia, also an arm-and-a-leg outfit — though I can't believe that Sallou's is ever prone to the sometimes hit-and-miss approach of that place; there is an earnestness about Sallou's cooking which one more habitually associates with such stellar places as Le Gavroche. And like Le Gavroche the kitchen cooks



FRANCIS MOSLEY

meat. This is not a place to bring a vegetarian to, even though it is difficult to imagine a vegetarian who would fail to appreciate the delicious dal with coriander, garlic and no trace of the habitual sick of grease.

But meat is liable to crop up in the most unlikely places, in the most unlikely forms: the nan bread I ordered was filled (though that is hardly the word) with a wafer-thin disc of some meat or other — maybe something akin to a superior doner kebab but without the wildlife. The pilau rice is quite unlike any rice I have previously eaten — it is spiced with cloves and chilli. Quite what is done to it to make it yield its essence I don't know.

Then there were lamb's brains, wonderfully sauced with spices that allowed one to taste the offal. The only mild disappointment was a sweet of warm halva which bore little resemblance to the moreish Israeli plasterboard but was an odd concoction of shredded carrots and edible silver leaf. The last is supreme Cruik's championship Bear.

Sallou's does not feel much like London's other ambitious subcontinental restaurants. It is most emphatically not part of the Raj Revived school.

It is under the same ownership as a restaurant in Lahore, and it probably has more in common with that establishment than it does with anywhere here.

There are fretted screens across the first floor windows, modern

Pakistani paintings, bold brass light fittings, pale and comfortable chairs. Save that it is, as I say, slow, the service is all right; though I am not certain that it is so all right as to warrant an inclusive 15 per cent charge. But despite that, and despite the wretched "cover" charge, it is a place that is most worthwhile; it is a good restaurant, not just a good "Indian".

Immediately south of Notting Hill Gate are a few blocks which rival Kinnerton Street in Dulux pastel gaiety. And here is another unusual Indian place, Malabar — more effortfully unusual, I suspect. It does not, for a start, look the part. (I imagine there are many who will welcome this.) It is a split-level space, rather austere, with seating in booths whose partitions are topped by pedimental

**SALLOO'S**  
★★★★★  
62 Kinnerton Street, London SW1 (071-238 4444). Lunch and dinner Mon to Sat, £20, major cards.

**MALABAR**  
★★★  
27 Uxbridge Street, London W8 (071-727 8800). Lunch and dinner every day, £20, major cards.

**THE COVENT GARDEN RICKSHAW**  
★★★★★  
11 Henrietta Street, London WC2 (071-578 5555). 233.

**THE PRINCE OF CEYLON**  
★★★★★  
39 Watford Way, London NW4 (081-202 5967). Lunch and dinner every day, £22, major cards.

chunks of plaster. The menu, like that at Sallou's is short. But unlike Sallou's this place has sought to make its mark by offering an unfamiliar repertoire of dishes rather than by doing the (mostly) familiar with absolute expertise. So Malabar is the place to go if you are curious about venison marinated with lime and onions. My advice on this one is keep it that way, stay curious. Anticipation always outdoes actuality (well, nearly always). I'm afraid that far too much of the cooking takes its cue from the venison dish. Novel ideas — or ideas unusual outside, presumably, Malabar — are executed with, no doubt, all due attention to authenticity. Which is fine. But polish and savouriness are more important than authenticity and certain dishes were lacking both. A very pink prawn curry was not a success, and a dish of prawns fried in a mealy batter recalled the old one about the other parts of the matzo. Here, surely, were the matzo's intestines. Dhal is watery, chicken is cooked with a thin sauce and nearly raw cucumber. The obviously high intentions are only completely realised in a spinach and lamb dish, in a mango fool, and in a stew of buttery marrow. With (indifferent) lassi and masala tea, two will pay about £50.

The Covent Garden Rickshaw has, after these places, the appearance of a production line job, it looks like many other Indian restaurants, its decorative scheme is typical of today's vernacular. Any-

one who makes a gag about flock wallpaper is making a gag about something which disappeared 15 or 20 years ago — a load of lager has flowed down the collective throat since then, and various styles have come and gone, notably the craze for hessian wallpaper. The now commonplace style of the Rickshaw has crept up quietly, ghosted in like Martin Peters. It is pleasing because of its very characterlessness, its slight ingloriousness; there are indifferently coloured banquettes, unassertively dragged walls and — best of all — chairs and chandeliers of a sort that never stood a chance of being fashionable.

Vegetable dishes here are classy items: souped-up pumpkin, potato with ginger, onion bhaji which was identifiable as onion and batter, the rankly flavoured turnip-like tuber called mullu. And the rice, while not up to the standard of Sallou's, is special; so, too, the chutneys, pickles, which include a beguiling form of coconut fudge coloured like a brick and pepped with chilli. Of the main courses, lamb with spinach was most creditable, tandoori duck was not — the only part of it which tasted of anything was the fat. The lean meat which was, in fact, almost as greasy as the fat was dreadfully bland. With nothing to drink apart from fizzy water two will pay £33, which is not unreasonable for the generally enjoyable cooking.

The Prince of Ceylon in Hendon is cheaper, as it should be. Sri Lankan cooking is not well represented in London and this restaurant on a six-lane race track is noteworthy if only because it serves dishes that are to be rarely found. Whether, though, you want to find them is a matter for you and your tongue alone.

It is 18 years since I ate Sri Lankan cooking in a London restaurant; I cannot pretend that I have missed it a lot. Hoppers are either vermicular noodles served with a chrome-yellow broth called *kiri hodi*, a must for those who crave turmeric, or hoppers are, confusingly, rice flour pancakes, rather like the dosas of South India, but bowl shaped and filled with a poached egg. Fish curry is fish curry. Sambals are pickles, often served warm; the seeni sambal here is pretty good, full of cloves and shards of aromatic bark. I also tried a pleasant enough pud made, I assume, from egg and milk and palm sugar. This is one for the gastronomically curious and the impecunious. About £22 for two.

## DIRECTORY

Stars — up to a maximum of 10 — are for cooking rather than swags and chandeliers. Prices on this page are for a three-course meal for two. They include an aperitif and modest wine in the case of French places, tea in the case of oriental ones and so on. Prices change: they usually go up. Dishes also may have changed — they are given only as an indication of the establishment's repertoire. I accept no responsibility for disappointments and claim no credit for happy surprises. Always phone first. J.M.

## MAYFAIR

**Zen Central**  
★★★★★  
20 Queen Street, London W1 (071-629 8089)  
The style is Corbusian kitsch, "functional" in appearance rather than utilitarian. The chairs are a pain whatever size you are. This is a Chinese restaurant determined to show it's not a Schoo cheapie; to this end some unremarkable dishes are given remarkable and high prices. The best dishes are actually not Chinese but Japanese and Thai — sashimi and fishcakes respectively. Serious wines from California, etc. £70

**Le Soufflé**  
★★★★★  
Inter-Continental Hotel, 1 Hamilton Place, London W1 (071-408 3131)  
Less formulae than that of most grand hotels, the cooking here is individual and highly accomplished, and of course the soufflés are not bad at all though they do strive for novelty: cheese soufflé with walnuts and a composite of pears and shallots. Veal with veal kidney, noodles and grain mustard sauce is first rate and the puddings are fine. The clientele is flash, and at odd times with the elephantine good taste of the décor. Good natured service. £90.

**Le Gavroche**  
★★★★★  
43 Upper Brook Street, London W1 (071-408 0881)  
The various reputations are justified. The rather ancient regime most cookery is outstanding: the daube of beef is massive and comforting and possesses a depth of flavour that recalls a different age, the belle époque maybe. The service is marvellous and there is an awful lot of it. The prices, especially of the wines, are frightening. The basement dining room is a shrine both to the Roux brothers and to stately sybaritism. The frivolity of "experimental" cooking is totally shunned; this cooking is based in classical taste and is without gimmicks. The *terre à pain* is the best you'll ever taste. The places works like beneficent clockwork and is a tremendous treat. At lunch two might just get out for £85 to £70. In the evening £140 is nearer the mark.

**Sakura**  
★★★★★  
9 Hanover Street, London W1 (071-629 2861)  
One of several Japanese businesses in this quarter of the West End of London. Large, characterless, but good value and pretty efficient at lunch time. £35.

**Copper Chimney**  
★★★★★  
13 Heddon Street, London W1 (071-439 2004)  
The service is frightful — loutish, offhand, unhelpfully sluggish. The cooking is good: sea food bouillon; a splendid chaf of black beans; a vindaloo which has nothing but throat-flipping properties in common with the Japanese; tandoori fish. The cocktails are to be avoided. With beer or Lassi £50.

**Mimimya**  
★★★★★  
38 Clarges Street, London W1 (071-492 2443)  
Smart, expensive and folklorically formal Japanese restaurant whose food, despite its endlessly tussy appearance, is good. Fine tandoori aubergines, grilled salmon, trout of green tea and plum, tea flavoured ice cream. £70.

**Kaspa**  
★★★★★  
18 Bruton Place, London W1 (071-493 2612)  
Snack bar for the very rich — caviar, champagne, vodka, and sole gras served in rather club-like surroundings in Mayfair mews. Simple-minded luxury but tony nonetheless. £90.

## CHEF TO WATCH

**Sted Ovest**  
★★★★★  
27-31 Basil Street, London SW13 (071-584 4484)  
Vaguely theatrical, slightly surreal interior. Thoroughly accomplished, very confident cooking by an Englishman, Nigel Davies, who draws on the repertoire of French south-west and breeds a steady path between reverence and invention. Salmon with warm oysters, scallops with sauce of garlic and parsley, duck with braised cabbage — these are excellent. The sweets are good, too. The punters are interestingly mixed and the atmosphere is one of stressless bustle. £45-£55.

**The Three Lions**  
★★★★★  
Suckton near Fordingbridge, Hampshire (0425 52489)  
Nicholas Rutheven-Stuart cooks game as well as anyone in Britain: roach with mace sauce, pheasant and pigeon with pepper sauce. Also grain of smoked haddock, a variety of top-notch fish soups, sweetbreads and kidneys with a vinegar sauce, lower end puddings. Long but not necessarily agreeable wine list. The dining room is part of a bizarrely converted pub, the décor is discreetly run. £30, £40 at lunch.

**Le Poussein**  
★★★★★  
57 Brookley Road, Brockenhurst, Hampshire (0590 23065)  
A former shop decorated in toilet tissue colours. Otherwise it's altogether good news. The service is smooth, the wines are first rate and the cooking by a young chef, proprietor called Alex, Altker's real heights as often as not. Beef with a marvellous red wine sauce and half a dozen kinds of roasted veg, sea bass with tinned dill, venison with port sauce, lemon tart with rhubarb sauce, fine cheeses. £100.

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## THE CATCH

In a search for quality, Richard Townson explores Newlyn at work

The time is 7.30am, and the Newlyn fish market is already active. Everything moves fast. The monkfish, sole and sea bass unloaded and auctioned this morning will be someone's lunch tomorrow in London, Paris or Geneva. The boats docked at the quay will be paid up, supplied with fuel and ice, and on their way to sea again this afternoon.

Everything has to move fast at this Cornish port, claimed to be the busiest and best in England and Wales, because they are dealing at the highest end of the market with a very expensive and highly perishable product.

"Newlyn is the best for fresh quality fish, without a doubt," says Laurence Clow, of Snipe & Grouse, supplier to the London restaurants Chez Nico, Tante Claire, L'Arlequin and Harvey's. "It's not frozen. It doesn't hang around, and they bring in the kinds of fish chefs want." Mr Clow does not buy from any other UK port.

Newlyn is fortunate to be in the middle of the prime fishing area in Europe, landing more than 30 varieties, compared to a handful at most other ports. Trade with the Continent was already long established when an 1887 fishing exhibition decided Newlyn had the world's finest pickhatch and mackerel fleet. The catches have changed but, as Mr Clow points out, freshness is still the most important factor.

"You're looking for boats that don't go out for three or four days or a week; you're looking for dayboats. I've never had fish from Newlyn sent back by a chef, and believe me, if Nico or Christian Delteil or Marco Pierre White weren't happy, they would let me know."

Mr Delteil, chef-proprietor of the Michelin-starred L'Arlequin, agrees about the importance of fast handling. "As soon as the fish is out of the sea, it depends on how you take care of it. The John Dory and sea bass from Newlyn are very good, very white and have a nice firm texture."

The monkfish, Newlyn's biggest single catch, is "always fresh and transparent, with a firm flesh and lovely texture," Mr Clow says.

He trusts his agent in Newlyn, Brian Portch, with getting the right quality. "That's why I'm paying him. I

The fastest fishermen in the West



Catch of the day: fish on the quayside at Newlyn

know Brian and he knows what I want."

Mr Portch and all the other agents can always be spotted, like stockbrokers in a restaurant, by their portable telephones. They never leave the auction floor while a sale is on. When a boat docks with a large catch of sea bass, it gets boxed and identified with the seller's name tag. Mr Portch knows there are other interested buyers, but his clients have told him to get some at any price. Only two buyers at a time are allowed to bid and as one drops out another takes his place until the highest price is reached. The winning buyer puts his tag on the box.

"From here the fish gets packed in ice, put into polystyrene boxes, and goes by lorry to an industrial estate outside Gloucester, where it's

sent to London on its way to Mr Clow or to Manchester, Birmingham — anywhere really."

Before setting up Cornish Sea Products in Newlyn, Mr Portch, third generation in a family business, ran fishmongers' shops all around London. Thirty per cent of his business was supplying hotels and restaurants.

He used to supply Stephen Bull when he was a Litchfield's in Richmond. "I would phone him from the market at seven in the morning and say 'brill are good, or turbot, and he would change his menu to what I could find him. He trusted me to bring him the best there was."

Mr Bull, now at his eponymously named Marylebone restaurant, still changes

his menu daily. "I went through 16lb of John Dory at lunchtime today. I know that Brian sells only a stone at a time, but I can contemplate taking three stone of fish a day and going through the lot."

"What I'm interested in as a chef is the freshness. I look at the gills; they should be pink and healthy. The flesh should be firm, not soft and flabby."

There is no reek of rotten fish at Newlyn. The market buildings are new and built with hygiene in mind; the smooth concrete floors have drains and are hosed regularly. There is an enormous cold store for boats landing at night, and soon the buildings themselves will be entirely air-conditioned.

Newlyn's quality and variety has not been lost on Continental suppliers, who buy 80 per cent of the port's catch, sending it on to France, Spain, Italy, Switzerland and the Netherlands.

Newlyn is almost entirely controlled by the family firm of W. Stevenson and Sons. "Ninety per cent of Newlyn's £22 million catch goes through our business," Elizabeth Stevenson says.

More than 1,000 men are employed by them, directly or indirectly. They auction all the fish and get a percentage of the price.

The Stevensons also sell all the fuel and ice, and, while there is grumbling about a monopoly, everyone admits they have invested a lot of money in Newlyn.

The harbour is open for 24 hours a day, every day except Christmas. Andrew Munson, the harbour master and a former fisherman, explains how much this means to fishermen. "An Irish boatowner said to me, 'Where else in the world could I call up the day before, say I want to land tomorrow, sell and settle up that day?' " At the other ports it is not unusual for boat-owners to wait a week or more for payment.

The big difference between Newlyn and its nearest rival, Brixham, is the trawling fleet. Brixham doesn't have one. The Stevensons run the EC's biggest private trawling fleet. "There's a big variety here," Mr Munson explains. "Other ports like Lowestoft catch mainly plaice and sole. Down here you get everything. If it swims, we catch it."



سكنا عن الاصل

# Perfect recipes for a picnic

**N**ext week the crowds will flock to Epsom Downs for the Derby. Later in the month comes polo, then tennis, and soon after that Henley, Glyndebourne, meanwhile, continues until late summer. All are perfect settings for picnics. But a sheltered spot in a back garden or on a balcony, or even in the local park on a warm sunny day, makes eating out of doors a special pleasure. I have planned two sorts of picnics: one fairly impromptu, for when you have left yourself little time for cooking and shopping, and one more elaborate, with dishes to be cooked in advance.

The quality of the no-cook picnic will depend on your store cupboard or your local deli. Take in a plate or tray that can travel with you and have a selection of salamis and cold cuts sliced and arranged on it. Or buy Parma ham and a box of breadsticks to wind the thin slices around. Smoked salmon can be eaten in the same way. Store cupboard starters might include a can of sardines in olive oil, smoked oysters, anchovies and a jar of olives. Canned consommé can be chilled with the champagne. Do not forget the tin opener. Stuffed bread makes marvellous picnic food and takes only a little time to prepare. Buy a baguette, crisp bread rolls or other suitable loaf, and slice off a lid. Pull out the soft crumb, and put it in a bowl. Add chopped sweet ripe tomatoes, finely chopped spring onions, olives and garlic, olive oil, sea salt and freshly ground pepper. Mix thoroughly and pack back into the hollowed-out bread. Replace the lid and wrap tightly. The flavours will have blended beautifully by the time you unwrap it. A cooked breakfast on the day of the picnic can give you cold sausages, and bacon, lettuce and tomato sandwiches to take along. Gruyère cheese cut into fingers, Bath Olives, the best bitter chocolate and dried fruit complete the picnic basket.

If you have time to plan in advance, here are some simple dishes to take along. I enjoy spicy cold food and have included some such recipes. Cold curried mushrooms are another picnic favourite, as is chicken, potato salad and walnut salad mixed with a subtly spicy mayonnaise. Celery sticks, carrots and chicory stay crisp longer than lettuce or cucumber and travel better.

**Devilled potted shrimps (serves 6 to 8)**  
 1/2lb/230g shell shrimps or prawns  
 5oz/140g softened unsalted butter  
 juice of 1/2 lemon

## Eating out of doors is a popular summer sport. Frances Bissell suggests two hampersful of goodies

Put the shrimps dry on paper towels, and put them in the food processor bowl with the butter, lemon juice and seasonings. Extra salt should not be needed. Process until smooth, and spoon into individual ramekins or a single container, packing well down. Run melted clarified butter over the top, if you wish to keep the shrimps for two or three days in the refrigerator; otherwise, foil or clingfilm will do for immediate use. Keep them chilled until required.

**Spiced chicken parcels (serves 6)**  
 12 free-range chicken wings, thighs or drumsticks  
 1tbsp coarsely ground black pepper  
 1tsp ground Szechwan peppercorns (optional)  
 2tsp freshly grated ginger  
 2tsp clear honey  
 2tsp toasted sesame oil  
 1-2tbsp soy sauce  
 2tbsp rice wine or dry amontillado sherry  
 1tbsp rice vinegar or sherry vinegar

Put the chicken pieces in a bowl. Mix the marinade ingredients, pour over the chicken, and stir well to make sure each piece is coated. Cover, refrigerate, and leave for two to three hours, or overnight if this is more convenient. Take 12 good sized squares of foil, baking parchment or roasting bags out to the right size. Place a piece of chicken on each bit, and wrap carefully so that the juices will not leak out. Place the parcels on a baking tray, and bake for 30 to 40 minutes at 200°C/400°F, gas mark 6. Remove from the oven, allow to cool, and do not open the parcels until ready to eat. If you can keep them in an

ice pack, a delicious dark, clear jelly will form around the chicken.

**Salmon rolls (makes 16)**  
 1 onion, peeled and finely chopped  
 1tbsp olive oil  
 1/2lb/340g cooked salmon  
 1/2lb/110g cooked rice, brown or white  
 1/2lb/110g cooked chopped mushrooms  
 1 or 2 hard-boiled eggs, shelled and chopped  
 2tbsp finely chopped chives or parsley  
 1tbsp chopped dill or chervil  
 3 or 4tbsp fish stock or good dry white wine  
 salt and pepper  
 1lb/455g puff pastry or short pastry  
 1 egg yolk beaten with 3tbsp milk

Fry the onion until it is very soft and, when cool, mix with the rest of the ingredients. Roll out the pastry, and divide into 16 rectangles. With damp hands, shape some of the salmon mixture into a cylinder to fit the pastry, leaving 1cm/1/2in at the edges so that the filling does not fall out. Moisten the free end with the beaten egg and milk, and roll up like a sausage roll. Place, with the joint underneath, on a greased, floured baking sheet. Make the rest of the rolls in the same way. Brush with the glaze, and bake for 20 minutes at 180°C/350°F, gas mark 4. Alternatively, you can fold the pastry into sealed parcels, slitting the top to allow steam to escape. Allow to cool completely before packing them; otherwise, condensation will make them go soggy.

**Ham and herb custard tart (makes a 9in/23cm tart or 12 x 3in/7.5cm ones)**  
 1/2lb/230g short pastry  
 5oz/140g cooked ham, diced  
 1tbsp butter or shredded Parma ham  
 3 egg yolks  
 1/2pt/430ml full cream milk  
 4 spring onions, trimmed and finely chopped

3tbsp chopped watercress  
 1oz/30g cooked, drained spinach, finely chopped (optional)  
 2tbsp finely chopped parsley  
 1tbsp chopped thyme or oregano  
 salt and pepper  
 pinch of freshly grated nutmeg

Roll out the pastry, and line the appropriate tin. Scatter the ham over the base. Beat the eggs and milk, and stir in the rest of the ingredients. Pour into the pastry shell, and bake in a pre-heated oven at 200°C/400°F, gas mark 6 for 10 to 15 minutes and then at 180°C/350°F, gas mark 4 for 30 to



35 minutes or until a skewer inserted into the middle comes out clear. Placing the tin on a baking sheet helps to cook the base more thoroughly. Remove from the oven, and cool on a wire rack. **Peaches and strawberries in wine (makes approx 2pt/1l)**  
 You will need a large preserving jar with a well-fitting rubber ring to seal it

4 or 5 ripe firm peaches  
 1lb/455g ripe strawberries  
 4tbsp sifted icing sugar or caster sugar  
 good, full-bodied red wine, enough to cover the fruit  
 1 measure Cognac or orange liqueur

Peel the peaches or not, as you wish, and slice. Halve or quarter the strawberries, depending on size. Layer the fruit, sprinkling each layer with sugar until it fills the jar. Pour on enough wine to cover, and then add the Cognac or liqueur. Close the lid tightly, and turn the jar over two or three times. Stand it the right way up, and carefully transport it to the picnic. The fruit is very good served with small crustless sandwiches of soft, grainy brown bread, filled with a mixture of comb honey, cream with ricotta and some chopped or shredded toasted hazelnuts stirred into the mixture.

© Times Newspapers Ltd 1990

**THIS** smooth, cool milky pudding is something that you either love or loathe (Frances Bissell writes). It was never subjected to it at school meals and thus see junket as a very agreeable ending to a summer meal. Offer it to some people, however, and you will be met with squeals of horror as they recall meal time traumas at boarding school.

In Anglo-Norman times junket was a soft fresh cheese, so called for the "jonquet", or basket made from rushes (jonques), in which it was drained. And, indeed, making an unsweetened junket is still the first step to a home-made soft cheese. Once it has set, you spoon the solids into a sieve, colander or other pierced mould lined with a cheesecloth. The whey will drain off, and the curds will be left behind to be pressed into a round or cylinder.

I like a simple junket best, just lightly sweetened and then, when it has set, with a thin layer of cream poured on top and a sprinkling of nutmeg. A tablespoon of brandy or rum might be stirred in with the sugar.

When junket was more popular, or at least more often served, flavourings would be used to ring the changes; thus, rosewater, orangeflower water or coffee flavoured junkets would be offered.

For the latter, I would suggest a



**Little Tia Maria mixed with Camp coffee essence.**

Rennet is the ingredient used to curdle the milk, and it is sold in liquid form or in tablets, often already flavoured. If either has been stored too long, some of the potency will be lost. Because it is derived from an animal product (the fourth stomach of the calf), it is not suitable for use in vegetarian cookery, and a vegetarian alternative should be sought from a specialist shop. Herbs such as lady's bedstraw were once used for this purpose but often gave the

finished dish a bitter flavour. Whichever coagulating agent you use, follow the directions. It goes almost without saying that junket is not worth making unless you use good quality, fresh creamy milk. Those lucky enough to get raw milk will make a good junket. Otherwise, look for gold-top, the Guernsey or Jersey milk that contains at least 4 per cent fat.

**Junket (Serves 6 to 8)**  
 2pt/1.15l milk  
 2tbsp caster sugar  
 1tbsp cognac or rum (optional)  
 rennet according to the manufacturer's directions (but usually 1-2tsp per pt)  
 7fl oz/200ml single or double cream  
 freshly grated nutmeg

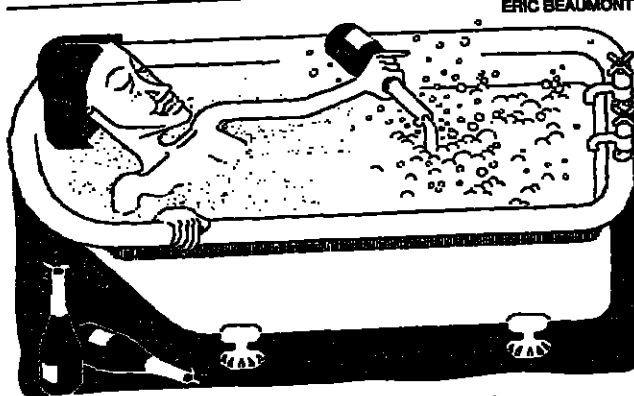
Put the milk and sugar in a saucepan and bring to blood heat (37°C/98.4°F). Stir in the alcohol, if using. Carefully pour the milk into a glass bowl, and then stir in the rennet, using a single circular motion to distribute it throughout the milk.

Leave it where it is until it sets, which is best done at room temperature rather than in a cool or cold place. Then it can be chilled until required, after running the cream over the top and sprinkling with nutmeg.

## DRINK

# Bubbling with bargains

The rising price of champagne has not prevented the usual round of June offers, Jane MacQuitty is glad to report



**J**une is the official opening of the champagne season, with weddings galore and glitzy social occasions such as Glyndebourne, Wimbledon and Ascot. This summer, due to ever-escalating prices and the growers' determination to sell less of their own grapes to the big houses, I thought that bargain-buy champagnes would be only a blissful memory. Strangely, however, there are as many cut-price June champagne offers as in previous years. The cheapest well-known champagne house name I have found is Victoria Wine's offer on Charles Heidsieck, available from June 4-30. This well-made biscuity bubbly comes down from £13.99 a bottle to £11.66 — provided you buy five bottles, that is: the sixth is free. Majestic Wine Warehouses stocks this wine for £14.95.

Fullers (contact: Richard Fuller, 081-994 3691, for your nearest branch) has a good deal on Taittinger Brut Réserve. This four bottles for the price of three offer is open from now until July 1, and brings the price of this delicate 'flowery fizz' down from £17.99 a bottle to £13.49. This easily unobtainable seven bottles for the price of six offer, which reduces its usual Taittinger price of £17.99 to £13.42.

Thresher is worth visiting this month if you are a fan of Lanson champagne. I dislike its lively lemony style, but if you like it then purchase it here at the reduced price of £13.99 from June 7. Thresher's other half, Wine Rack, is selling magnums of the frothy, beefy Lanson '79 for £39.95 also from June 7.

Good June wines at Oddbins include the 1990 vintage of Hardy's Early Bird Dry white (£3.99). I always enjoy drinking the first vin de l'année, which is usually an Australian wine. The 1990 edition of this wine from Western Australia has a lovely fresh style, reminiscent of lemon and limes. It would go down well with summer salad featuring chicken and fish. Other good Australian summer buys from Oddbins in-

clude two fine Chardonnays from Victoria. The cheaper wine, a 1989 Schinus Molle Chardonnay from Dromana Estate, with its moreish golden combination of ripe fruit and cinnamon-like oak, is a delight at £6.49. The 1988 Clyde Park Chardonnay from the Bannockburn Vineyards in Geelong (£9.99) is the finer wine, not so top-heavy with oak and blessed with a fine fragrant style and lots of melon and pineapple-like fruit. Both would be delicious with fresh poached salmon.

Good wine needs no bush, as customers discovered they go. On the plus side, the interior of the Hunter & Oliver branch I visited was light and reasonably spacious, with pale wooden wine bins. But, alas, only a fifth of the bottles were stored horizontally. Still, there were wine books and gifts on offer, plus a well-attended

**WINE BUYS**  
 • Carriole Barton, Bordeaux Supérieur, Bibendum, 113 Regent's Park Road, London NW1, £3.66  
 The latest development from Amory Barton, of St Julien second growth Leoville-Barton, is a splendid white and red Bordeaux pair. Neither comes from the property itself, but they have been selected by Anthony Barton. This elegant, light,

tasting area at the back of the shop with free tastings most weekends and Thursday and Friday evenings. H & O's wine list is what you would expect: not cheap, heavy on Peter Dromana and its sister companies' wines with, disturbingly, few vintages quoted. I doubt whether the 34 Hunter & Oliver outlets will be around for long: sales have been disastrous according to competitors, but if the planned 20 new shops do open, Messrs H & O should be killed off, more bottles binned-up and a fine wine list devised.

Hunter & Oliver outlets are running free tastings of various Australian wines throughout June, as is Oddbins. The latter's look much more appetising, not just because Oddbins has twice as many wines available, but the prices are considerably cheaper: Rosemount's '89 Fumé Blanc is £4.99 at Oddbins, £5.79 at H & O; similarly the same company's '88 Show Chardonnay is £6.99 at Oddbins, £7.79 at H & O. Ever since Oddbins and Australia joined forces in 1987 with a range of first-class, low-priced wines, they have proved an irresistible force in the high street. Today Australian wines account for a quarter of all Oddbins' table wine sales.

Finally, for those readers who asked me to repeat my cut-price Cheat's Pimm's recipe, printed this time last year, here it is:

**Cheat's Pimm's**  
 1 measure gin  
 1 measure red vermouth (Italian or French will do)  
 1 measure orange Curaçao

Mix the three ingredients in the bottom of a tall glass, add several ice-cubes, and top up in the usual way with sparkling lemonade and whatever additions from the garden or fruit bowl you prefer. I use a slice each of lemon, orange and cucumber, plus a sprig of borage. This drink can be made in advance in a large jug and kept in the fridge until needed, at which point add the cooled sparkling lemonade.



# For us, the everyday is very special.

In order to find reliable wines for a sound *vin de table*, we travelled all over France, paying close attention to the produce from vineyards with promise.

Then, at home in the Beaujolais, we began to blend our wine in accordance with the taste-buds of our imagination. We sought a luscious, full-bodied flavour, without the coarseness associated with certain table wines. Smoothness was desirable, but certainly not blandness.

*Le Piat d'Or rouge* presents the mouth with a rich, full taste. Rough edges are notably absent. It accompanies the gamier flavours of our local dishes and is very pleasant on its own.

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# Swinging Sixties sickness

This is the third volume of Clive James's so-called "Unreliable Memoirs". When the project began, everybody told him he was much too young to be writing his life history. Now, 10 years later, he is showing distinct signs of becoming a bit aged for the recollection business. And our hero in his Gush Puppies has only got to Cambridge. So one wonders, with anxiety, how many volumes more?

I have never met Clive James, and I would certainly not want to. He seems the sort of man who would shout you down at dinner parties. But I've read, with much enjoyment, a good deal of what he's written. At least when you read him you can switch him off at will. I admire his fluency, and I used to like his cruelty. But what is it about Cambridge that turns even hard men mushy? "I would be surprised," writes James in his preface, "if nostalgia for those easy years did not drip from the following pages like sweat." He could not have put it more precisely.

James's early volumes had the sharpness of adversity. The accounts of his impoverished upbringing in Kogarah, followed by a lengthy period of bumming around London, living in a suitcase full of fifty washings, were heroic in their hopeful bumptiousness.

In Cambridge in the 1960s James had made it: "I had landed in the lap of the only kind of luxury I have ever cared about — a wealth of opportunity." Luxury is no improvement of the prose style, and there are moments when these could be the memoirs of any superannuated statesman and buffoon.

This has been my week for fannies. I have just been reading Roy Hattersley's colossal long-winded first novel. It has made me think hard about the politics of fatness. Are fat men more easily seduced than thin ones away from fealty to their original beliefs? Certainly Clive James at Cambridge lost no time at all in shedding his radical socialist inhibitions. He solved his laundry problem by sending it off weekly in the gentlemanly manner in its designated box.

Some of his time at Cambridge he remains the James one knew and loved to hate for being tiresome, tiresome, and omniscient. He feels that Donne is done, and launches into an interperate attack on F.R. Leavis who, in his opinion, was seriousness personified. "He even had a serious way of being bald," James is fine when he is flippant, if a little repetitious. It is when the middle-aged sonorities set in one starts to feel uneasy. Is this James, or Bernard Berenson? "I had the memory of how Masso-

When Clive James began writing his memoirs, a decade ago, he was thought too young. But,

Fiona MacCarthy writes,

in the third volume he is showing signs of his age

MAY WEEK IN JUNE

By Clive James  
Cape, £12.95

cio's frescos looked on the wall of the Church of the Carmine in Florence to remind me what intellectual distinction was really like."

He is still able to be wonderfully rude, especially (and nicely) at his own expense, as when he describes his university person as being as absurd and out of focus as a chameleon crossing a hill. But he also, less endearingly, reveals vast depths of snobbery. At Cambridge in the Footlights he tells us he continued to meet young British people who were to influence his life deeply: "Some of them have become well-known since". His showbizzy craving for the uncouth is curious. How can anyone so clever think it worth the space to tell us that "David Frost, acting as guest critic in *Punch*, was generously kind"?

His attitude to women has always been uncertain. I suspect the only woman who could honestly have saved him is Germaine Greer, who appears in this volume lightly disguised as Romaine Rand and easily a match for James in self-obsessiveness. (They had indeed held hands at the theatre in Sydney, "quite a trick when the woman is sitting in the row behind you".) Since his days of libertarianism in London in the Sixties when, as he put it, the *Zeigist* had given him his Bacchic urge a blanket endorsement, a reformed Clive James is now making some ridiculously turgid protestations of remorse.

Perhaps the Sixties female did not absolutely

suit him. He writes with some abhorrence about high-lacquered boots and tight black helmet hairstyles, and those short and sexless Piet Mondrian grid dresses that reduced the female figure to its slightest since the 1920s. In fact for James the period seems to have resulted in sheer sexual melancholy and a tendency to impotence, theoretic if not actual. Oh 1960s! Whatever have you done?

In the past Clive James's jokes have had the force of total tastelessness. Few sexual relationships have even now recovered from that devastating image in Vol. One of the memoirs in which spermatozoa started foaming out like vichyssoise. In Vol. Three there is a scene of comparable horridness in the Pembroke room of the Chief Rabbi's nephew, where, of six embarrassingly full abandoned condoms, the one draped on the lampshade had begun to fry. No one actually tells a Clive James joke as well as James does. But one gets the impression from these memoirs of a fatal loss of confidence in levity alone.

I think he must be suffering from Swinging Sixties sickness, a malaise that has affected other notable members of that spoilt and recklessly conceited generation. (Those who are gifted have fewer, not more, excuses for behaving badly, as James's unlikely friend and mentor Joyce Grenfell rightly said.) These days we are being faced with the phenomenon of those who wasted talent so prodigally then, now reserving seats in heaven by pronouncing all too solemnly on abortion, homosexuality, and Aids. The incongruity of this sycophantic exercise is even more marked in the case of James than others, because he is one of the most heinous former sinners, and indeed he is still featured in the *TV Times* resembling a beached relic of the Sixties, wearing a pale mauve T-shirt emblazoned invitingly COCONUT GROVE.

When Clive James arrived in Cambridge he thought all the dons were nutty, ludicrously specialist and antiquated figures, who might, if provoked, feel compelled to rusticate him. (Rustication, to James the freshman, sounded ominously like being castrated with a rusty knife.) Interestingly enough, the same thing struck Peter Conrad on his arrival in Oxford from Tasmania roughly 10 years later. The dons seemed mad as hatters, showing the behaviour patterns that get other people locked up.

I don't think it was mere madness. Both of them had misconstrued it. It was one of those infinitely subtle donnish protests at antipodean inroads into English ways of life.

## All the evidence, but no case to prove

Jonathan Meades

THE ENGLISH TOWN  
By Mark Girouard  
Yale, £19.95

there. Every building tells a story; every street is a signifier; houses are not mute; a quay is a social document; that granary is a microcosm of 1869; this arcade is not just shops but the by-blow of, typically, the railway's arrival and Mr Jerry-builder's speculation (he was transported for forgery).

The author is curiously indefatigable in his research, and infuriatingly cavalier in his dissemination of it. There is hardly a page that does not yield some bizarre curiosity, some item to excite the magpie mind but in the same instant to prompt bemusement and exasperation. Dr Girouard has no case to make, but has all the evidence to make it. These get things to motor; this is a Mulliner *sans* engine, static. This is the right writer with the wrong method, with too much plaster and too little armature. And too much flitting about everywhere reminds Dr Girouard of somewhere else. It's almost as if he's in competition with some imaginary opponent, effortfully citing yet another town where, say,

waterside houses disappeared to be replaced by warehouses after the navigators had dug their stuff. The concentration and reticence that render *The Victorian Country House* such a magisterial work are quite missing. *The English Town* can be read only as an encyclopedia — an alphabetic one which is now ordered according to place, now according to time.

The parentheses of introduction and epilogue acknowledge the municipal vandalism that was wrought in the middle of this century, but the book as a whole disregards the matter. Indeed its only obvious boundary is that of the Great War. With the exception of the archly captioned photograph that opens the epilogue, there is not a single illustration of a building of

later than 1905. (The reconstituted stone shed with a 1950s window that has crept into the corner of the photograph of the decorated chimney that dominates the Calder Valley west of Halifax is clearly an oversight.) The problem that arises from this random cut-off point is not nugatory. The problem is the emphatic implication that the true growth of "the town" ceased with the dawn of the motor age, and that what has happened to towns since then is nothing but an inventory of ugly prosthetic appendages, unnatural acts in concrete.

But there never was a golden age of towns, any more than there was a golden age of language: only fools and princes believe in the one, only they believe in the other. Few towns ever possessed an architectural or aesthetic integrity — wholeness (Bath, Cheltenham, Letchworth) is the exception, and even in those places it is illusory. There are, indeed, towns which have, actually, been vastly improved by post-war developments — the finest buildings in Swindon, for instance, are

by Douglas Stephen and Norman Foster. I can hear you — Swindon, pit of the west and all that. But 200 years ago one might have heard the same of Wyke which became Weymouth. Mutability is the thing. Or, rather, the concession that it's inevitable, and not necessarily for the worse, is the thing.

*The English Town* is, I guess, the result of a love affair with townscapes and townscapes. The subject, like the quarry of any amorous adventure, is scrutinized, idealized, rejected when it gets wens. Of course, one man's wens is not another's. Dr Girouard's championship of 19th-century industrial buildings is nowadays unremarkable. But when he was born, fifty-eight-and-a-half years ago, they were widely regarded as urban ulycers.

It is characteristically English to find no beauty in such buildings — for they are apogees of urbanism, and there is in this country an almost elemental antipathy to urbanism. The countryside is regarded as "superior" to towns, and towns, in turn, attempt to ape the countryside: floral street names, arboreal excesses, cottage houses, the national mania for gardens — these are all escapist. It's as though we can't face up to the actuality of our most commonplace system of living.

## A cipher in a v

Brian Morton

QUISLING  
A Study in Treason  
By Oddvar K. Hoidal  
Norwegian University Press,  
Oxford University Press, £48

ODDVAR Hoidal's central tenth chapter, covering Norway's dark wartime days from January to April 1940, is headed "Quisling Becomes a Synonym for Treason". Though "eponym" and "traitor" would be more strictly accurate, the point is well enough made.

The facts are that Quisling, a political marginal from the far nationalist right, having declared a spurious "national government" on April 12, with himself as premier and foreign minister, dissolved it three days later, with every appearance (wrongly, as it turns out) of having cooked up the entire sorry arrangement with the invading Nazis. The Germans had quickly recognized him for what he was, a cipher wielding imaginary power in a vacuum, and ousted him with considerably less difficulty than it took to shift the Norwegian Resistance.

One of the first English-language biographies of Quisling was Ralph Hewins's 1965 *Prophet Without Honour*, a shameless whitewash by an English journalist with an obscure axe to grind under a pretence of historical "revisionism". Though overlong and relentlessly fair-minded, Hoidal does not

mince judgements. His title echoes Alan Bullock's *Hitler: A Study in Tyranny* every bit as self-scoffishly as Quisling and his movement modelled themselves on the Nazis.

Quisling remains, as Hoidal most Norwegians concede, a *zile, zide*. As the 1920s passed, the world economic crisis deepened, Quisling hid his perils — bigamy, embezzlement, a bizarre and probably ill-assassination attempt — during brief and disastrous tenures as minister of defence — behind nutty philosophy he called "Eversism", and a populist nationalism based on ideas of racial purity, and expressed through fringe literary groups like the *Fæderne* League and *Nordic Folk-Rising*, a time when factions were close at a furious rate, it was inevitable that Quisling would eventually

## Homo beanoensis and his Bash Street friends

FOR CHILDREN

Brian Alderson

WHO'S BEEN SLEEPING IN MY PORRIDGE?  
A Book of Daff Poems and Pictures  
By Colin McNaughton  
Walker Books, £10.95

There are signs that Colin McNaughton may have just escaped from the comic-paper treadmills of Dundee and is trying out his unaccustomed freedom. Some bits in this daffodil beano of a book belong nowhere but among the Bash Street Kids and Co ("Doris the Pirate", for instance, creating mayhem in the supermarket and paying for the lot with freshly dug treasure). Some bits, too, belong chiefly to Bash Street readers with a taste for low comedy: "Smedley was dead/ly, a spitter supreme/He spat through his teeth/in short bursts or a stream."

On the other hand, the predictability of Bash Street is gone, so that the broad gives way to the daff, and the rudimentary to the unexpected. Mr McNaughton manages this partly because he is an amusing versifier.

I'm not an 'appy burguller.  
As you can plainly see:  
I'm not an 'appy burguller  
Cos sum wons burguller me.

but his advantage over other such pranksters — and there are a lot of them about — is that he makes the pictures work as well as the words. That burguller has all the attributes of *Homo beanoensis* — striped jersey, stubby jowls, black spectacle-mask — but the expressiveness in his sad pout, allied to the daff rhyme, makes the whole thing more than doubly ridiculous.



BEWARE THE BEASTLY BOGEYMAN

Beware the beastly bogeyman,

The googly-eyeballed bogeyman.

Beware the beastly bogeyman,

He'll have your guts for garters.

Colin McNaughton's pictures happily complement his words

What's more, Mr McNaughton has range. He can travel from linericks to lists, from puns to ballads, and all the time he finds the natural illustration. The jest of *Firrlstem United*, playing an away game on the side of a mountain, is too good to want much accompaniment; some wacky verses about the moon as holiday-camp need their framework of cartoons to bring

them to life. The variety here, the command of line, colour, and page-design, render pointless the concluding verses where the author wonders if it has all been too tedious:

No Mr McNaughton,  
You are not a bore;  
When the days start to shorten,  
Please bring us some more.

In this compressed but highly informative and readable account, justly praised when it appeared in hardback last year, the author states at the outset that what we call the Second World War consisted, in fact, of two separate wars: one in Europe, the other in the Far East, with Britain and America involved in both after December 1941. He does not make the familiar mistake of treating Pearl Harbor itself as the cause of their joint involvement. But for Hitler's gratuitous declaration of war on the United States four days after the Japanese attack, "Roosevelt might not have been able to bring America into open war with Germany and so carry out the... principle that the defeat of Germany should have priority over the defeat of Japan".

Mr Parker gives no unqualified endorsement to the bland assump-

John Grigg cons

## Campaign really

tions about Allied strategy. Europe which have marked as British work on it since the war. He stops short of reappraising fundamentally. The key question implied, parenthetically, in chapter on "The Murder of the Jews", when he says that "great efforts by the British and Americans (short of a successful invasion of France in 1943) could have been only a marginal effect" in saving Jewish lives. Might such an invasion have been mounted, or, as the question another way, was the Italian campaign to which Western Allies became committed in 1943 a disastrous sideshow?

## Learning to be funny

Hamish Lennox

COMEDY

By Athene Seyler  
Nick Horn Books, £4.99

FEW authors first publish at the age of 50 and then reissue at 101. Athene Seyler's longevity is in danger of obscuring the achievements of her career: she has become more famous for outliving her contemporaries than for her career on stage and screen. The present work consists of her correspondence with a professional actor, Stephen Haggard, on how to coach one William Eager, an amateur, in the playing of comic roles.

This is such a "Look and Learn" set-up as to suggest a publisher's contrivance. Haggard submits Eager's technical problems, which gives Seyler the chance to expatiate on her considerable knowledge of stage comedy. The advice is undoubtedly sound, albeit based on highly conventional perceptions. Mr Eager laps it up, in and out of costume, and at book's close has thrown up his job in a bank for a life on the boards.

The slim volume is unintentionally funny in ways which have more to do with Footers than with Pirandello. Give a thespian a writing pad, and he or she will turn seriously roguish and extremely modest, will evince a beady-eyed

devotion to the extended metaphor and slap inverted commas around the most commonplace colloquialisms.

Seyler says more than once the comic acting hinges on the ability to stand slightly outside the character; the reader is left watching watching himself. It's not ironic, that "if she ever stopped thinking/Of how she did it, she would sink" but the fact remains, in comic actors invariably succeed in developing one character and wrapping roles around them for the rest of their career. Pirandello and Simon Callow both think highly of this book, which may be some indication of its ultimate worth. The letters themselves date from June 1939 to May 1940, although the war isn't mentioned once. Haggard was killed on service. After all this sterling tuition, what became of Eager?

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## State and people

ETHICS AND FOREIGN POLICY

By George Walden  
Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £20

Is it possible for one nation state, let us say, its democratically elected government — to behave entirely selflessly, magnanimously, towards another? For philosophical purposes one may overlook any element of enlightened self-interest, which might accompany Third World aid or a Marshall Plan, and which perhaps modifies the purity of motive implied.

It is not quite the question asked by George Walden in his erudite and compelling exploration of the relationships between individual and state morality; nor does he quite answer it. Yet it highlights the difficulty of attempting — Mr Walden's ideal — to infuse foreign policy with moral worth. A man may give generously of his wealth and possessions without wish or hope of thanks or return. But let an enlightened, democratic government try to alienate so much as a useless, distant rock, and the sky will fall on it. That government is simply not in the business of Christian sacrifice.

This stops nobody from moralizing about governmental behaviour, which has been subjected to philosophic comment ever since Socrates. Mr Walden points scathingly to the inconsistencies both of the "Brutalists", who accept cynical expediency in foreign policy while insisting on the highest domestic moral standards; and of the "Pietists", whose permissive attitudes to home affairs contrast starkly with a high-mindedness bordering on folly in regard, say, to defence, aid, arms sales, or military interventions anywhere from Vietnam to the Falklands. Such disjunctions, as that of the frequent clash of morality and practicality in practis-

ing foreign policy, usefully demonstrate that nations behave perversely, just like people, and vice versa.

The difficulty remains, how to bring international and national moral behaviour into line. Mr Walden analyses "ethical apartheid" (strangely enough, the nearest the book ever gets to mentioning one of the biggest foreign policy moral problems of our times), and argues, Machiavelli and all, that it is not defensible: "The idea that the state has a right to behave internationally in a way that individuals and societies do not is unpersuasive." One has no difficulty with that; nor with the suggestion that people tend to blame their governments for moral as well as political mistakes when things go wrong. But then Mr Walden moves on to the deeper question of whether an electorate should itself rightly be blamed for the ethical faults of those it put in power. Any democratic Opposition Party would not have difficulty with an answer; but the fair-

minded realist certainly would. From his own extensive diplomatic experience, Mr Walden knows and expounds the political variables and limitations of knowledge which of necessity constrain the formulation of successful foreign policy. He therefore understandably resents the instant moralizer who sits in judgement over the Libyan bombing, or the interventions in Grenada or Panama, or any such incident where a major power is expected to affect a correct moral stance; and who concludes on insufficient evidence that the action is the work of knaves doing their worst rather than fools doing their best. Farharmfully enough, the invasion of Afghanistan is less than a perfect case study.

For this book was written principally as an examination of the ethics of American foreign policy — one more than most guided by and subjected to moral inspection both from its practitioners and from domestic critics. Mr Walden was, he says, "emboldened by the intertidal with which philosophers intrude into diplomacy" to reverse the process. He has made a fine job of it. True, the events in Europe of the past 12 months have dated some passages: Mr Walden's comments on the division of Europe, the motives of the Soviets, and the nuclear debate seem already today to sit strangely with his argument. And yet — if this is not to speak too soon — will not the astonishing denouement of the Cold War in 1989 and 1990 go all the way to redress the mistakes and justify the risks of 40 years of Western effort to overcome what most of our governments, most of the time, have regarded as an unremitting evil?

## Whistling in the wind?

Jeffrey Abbott

THE WHISTLER AT THE PLOUGH  
By Alexander Somerville  
The Merlin Press, £35

man. Approached by a speculating publisher who wanted a denigratory Life of Wellington, he read all the Duke's despatches. "I told the publisher that I could not read Wellington with my pen unless it were to try to exalt him higher than any writer had yet done."

Who will want this book? Social historians of the countryside of the past, as Mr Snell suggests, find it convenient to have these documents with their plentiful oral testimony. It will cost them £35. A further drawback is the index — clearly the original. It is scanty, erratic, erroneous. The Duke of Wellington does not appear on p15; he does appear on pages other than p126. This venerable journal is mentioned twice in the text. It comes in for sharp treatment, but is spared the final opprobrium of inclusion in the index. "Poor Law" is a recurrent target and the subject of some moving passages: it is indexed on two pages only of the 432. The Whistler deserves better; the scholar requires it.

What of that elusive creature, the general reader? It must be admitted that the book is whimsically unmetretrics. There are no plates, no illustrations; the type is close, the general aspect austere.

There is — is bound to be — much repetition of farming technicalities: manuring, trenching, draining, hedging, leases, prices, wages: all interesting matter — once. We need to be reminded that the idyllic countryside was badly farmed and contained (when employed) labourers who four days a week ate nothing but potatoes and bread — when they could; that convicts had better fare; that poaching and thieving were rife. There are fine descriptions of the countryside, striking characters, revealing conversations: a labourer from the village where Lord Nelson (not in the index) had an estate knew of him only that he was "a terrible hand at fighting"; odd persons on a stage-coach; a Socialist Community — moral but "lunatic"; delight in the (exceptional) landlady virtues of the Spencers of Althorp; much pleasurable reading, sometimes compulsive.

If Somerville could today revisit the countryside he would at first rejoice: security of tenure, labourers well-provided; land drained, trimmed, clean, and superbly productive. He would then discover: the produce superfluous, the farmer bribed to return land to wilderness; the government bent on removing two million acres from production; prices still (somewhat) protected; surplus produce stored expensively here or sold cheaply abroad. He would not be whistling; he would be crying his eyes out. *Sic transit gloria fundi.*

## A latter-day saint, too good for the world

Sanctity burns, then consumes, writes

Nigella Lawson

SIMONE WEIL  
Utopian Pessimist

By David McLellan  
Macmillan, £25

constantly, was the alienating, unthinking rhythms imposed by the routine of factory work. She called for workers to be brought into the whole production process. If a worker learned what he was doing and why, and was engaged in all parts of the process rather than having one unchanging position on the conveyor belt, then the work would not be as soul-destroying.

Her attempts to share the experience of the worker, while they answered a genuine need in her, must have been somewhat irksome for those whose experience she wished to share. While working in the factory, she refused to heat her flat, because "the poor" couldn't afford to. Anxious to learn about farm labouring she asked a peasant if she could drive his plough. He let her, she overtook it immediately, and he was furious. She worked on a small holding belonging to a M. and Mme Belleville near Bourges for a while, until Mme Belleville "declared that she couldn't have Mlle

Well any more: she never washed her hands before milking the cows; she never changed her clothes; and, worst of all, her constant lectures about the troubles of the world were giving them a nervous breakdown. "My husband and I used to say: the poor girl, so much study has driven her out of her wits."

Despite her pacifism, she went to Spain during the Civil War, where she was more trouble than help. In England, working for the Free French, she hardly ate, saying that she couldn't while the French were starving. When she died, in Ashford in 1943 at the age of 34, the *Kent Messenger* carried the news under the headline: "Death from Starvation: French Professor's Curious Sacrifice."

In many ways, it was a sacrifice. Her Jewish heritage disdained in favour of a mystical Christianity, she embraced the "purity" of affliction, and in a sense, had grown too good for this world. "I have a sort of growing inner certainty", she wrote to her parents shortly before her death "that there is within me a deposit of pure gold which must be handed on. Only I become more and more convinced, by experience and by observing my contemporaries, that there is no one to receive it."

David McLellan gives us a sometimes dense, but always fascinating digest of the thoughts and deeds of this latter-day saint. A sympathetic account, certainly, but not a hagiography.



Odour of sanctity: Simone Weil in Marseilles in 1942

### PAPERBACKS

## Some of the mythology of a great conflict that really mattered

STRUGGLE FOR SURVIVAL

The History of the Second World War  
By R. A. C. Parker  
Oxford, £5.95

unnecessarily delaying the only campaign that really mattered? The author shows that General Marshall's failure to gain overriding priority for cross-Channel action had the effect of lowering American production of landing-craft. He also tells us that in July 1943 there were 520,000 US troops

in the Mediterranean theatre, compared with only 109,000 in Britain, and he further mentions that at the time of D-Day there were 27 German divisions on the Italian front, compared with 63 in Russia, 50 in France and about 40 in the Balkans. The last figure surely suggests — though Mr Parker does not make the point — that had there been a campaign in Italy, the Germans would nevertheless have felt obliged to keep substantial forces there to guard against the threat of invasion from North Africa.

In view of the evidence that he himself offers, it seems perverse of

him to describe the Italian campaign as "a success". No doubt it kept some very good German units away from France, but the diversion of Allied manpower and resources was vastly greater.

The indiscriminate bombing of Germany is condemned by Mr Parker as "unsound". Quite apart from moral considerations, it could never achieve what accurate daylight bombing of strategic targets might have achieved in 1943, if only long-range fighter escorts had been available. In this context the crucial aircraft was the P-51 Mustang, as the author explains. He does not, however, emphasize what was lost by failure to expedite mass-production of the improved Mustang after its testing in October 1942. About a year passed before the decision to mass-produce it was taken — a year that could have made all the difference.

which Victorian evangelicals launched in an effort to make Britain a more godly nation. He was a leading light in the Ragged School movement, promoted Sunday evening religious services in London theatres and set up missions to costers and sailors. The energy and achievements of a life crammed full with good works are well brought out in this brief and somewhat breathless biography by John Pollock. So, too, are the often sad and harrowing details of Shaftesbury's private life though not, rather surprisingly considering that the author is himself an evangelical clergyman, the real nature and depth of the earl's religious faith.

This book is strong on narrative but weak on analysis. It makes no attempt to set Shaftesbury in the context of the Victorian debate on self-help versus paternalism or to assess his overall achievements. To a considerable extent, it was his paternalism that ultimately won the day in the 19th century, laying the foundations for the welfare state and establishing a consensus among government and governed in Britain about the need to protect the poor and the weak from the full effects of unrestrained capitalism, a consensus that survived until the last quarter of the 20th century.

## Energy and industry

Ian Bradley



SHAFTESBURY:  
The Poor Man's Earl  
By John Pollock  
Lion, £5.95

ment of women and children in factories and mines and to reduce the hours of all workers. Shaftesbury threw himself, too, into many of the other crusades

## Sailing home to the heart of Europe

IN my existentialist youth, I thought the ideal history book would be written on the lines of *Tristram Shandy*, because Sterne's picaresque and tangential style mimicked the nature of life far more than a cohesive narrative could ever do. Such a book is *Danube*, Claudio Magris's travelogue-cum-historical discussion on Germany, Austria and Eastern Europe.

At first I had doubts. The early pages of the book are tinged with a whimsical humour, which resembles nothing so much as Jerome K. Jerome.

When Magris draws analogies from confusion over the source of the Danube (does it come from a tap, a gutter, a spring?) with the nature of identity, of change, of being, and of Artifice, in one hour that the casual references to Hölderlin, Descartes and Heraclitus may prove laborious. But the writer rapidly demonstrates his extraordinary breadth of knowledge and generosity of spirit. Indeed, once launched, the book's paradox of the river which goes yet remains becomes instantly and hauntingly interwoven with the ebb and flow of history around it.

Magris is quick to find the amusing detail proper to a travel writer, but his forte is a wealth of literary and historical allusions from Austrian, French, Italian and German sources, which makes this book not only a treasure-chest, but also a profoundly perceptive survey of central European history. The Danube flows through the old Roman *Limes*, Rome's front line against the barbarian Germans, through the former bastions of the Holy Roman Empire, to the Great Plains and the East. His journey ends at the Black Sea, with the Danubian delta disappearing into an industrial wasteland, a plain

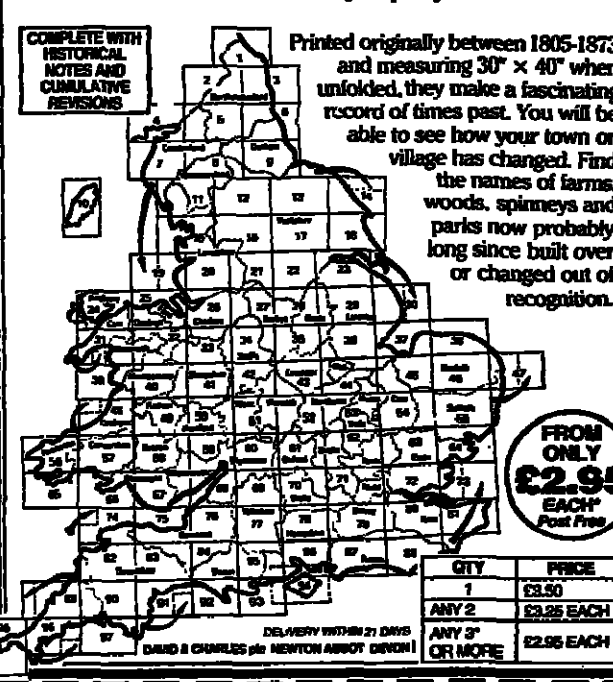
speckled with rusty factories and grim canals. We have travelled from birth to death, from the young torrents of Romanticism and the time of the birth of nations, through the horror and tragedy of Nazism, to a totalitarian wasteland.

This is more than a brilliantly and learnedly annotated catalogue, fun if you can follow the allusions, educational if you cannot. The symbolic power of the Danube, the river that links Celts, Latins, Germans and Slavs, bears closely upon the future of Europe as well as its past. "Today, questioning oneself about Europe means asking oneself how one relates to Germany," comments Magris, who sees his journey down the Danube as the wake of a German "expansion now vanished and in fact reversed". He has a vision of Europe, from Rome to the present, in which Enlightenment and Romanticism and reaction, play their parts, and cultures rise and fall. It is a vision which largely excludes Britain. Neither Suleiman the Magnificent, whose surge into Europe was halted at Vienna, nor the *Nibelungenlied*, ever reached the Thames. Here, few historians would think to compare Odine with Ernst Jünger (we do not have courses on comparative reactionaries) or make jokes about Heidegger as "Managing-Director of Being".

So Magris's approach, wonderfully stimulating and constantly surprising, is especially valuable because it offers a truly European sensibility, struggling to get back to the old heartland of central Europe from its displacement to the West. But it is one that somehow, for better or worse, places us at the periphery of the new "common European home".

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## ARTS

## My kind of job, Chicago is

Daniel Barenboim, in London with the Berlin Philharmonic, talks to Barry Millington about his new post in Chicago, conducting Wagner and his dramatic departure from the Opéra de la Bastille

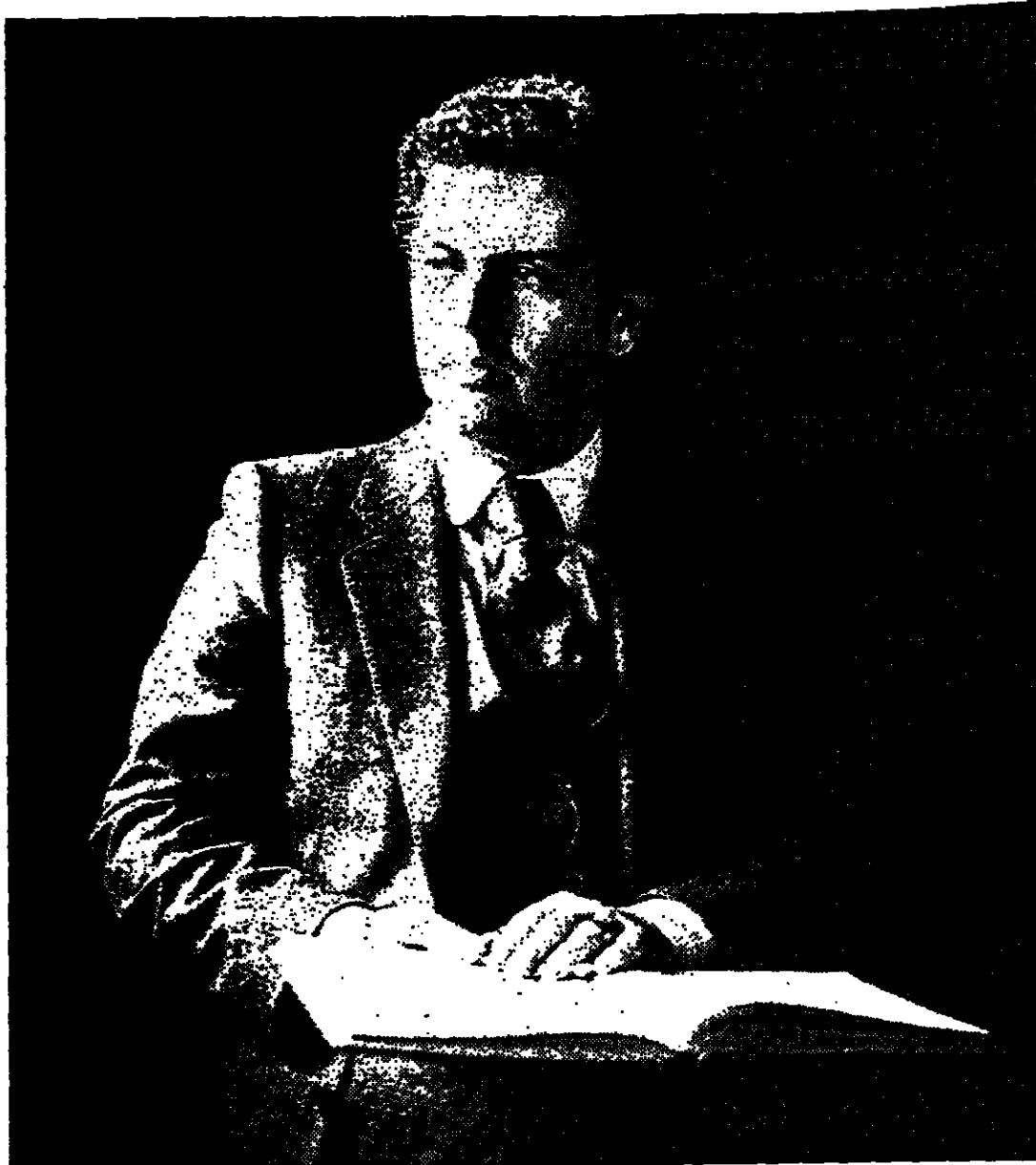
With Karajan gone and Claudio Abbado, the Berlin Philharmonic's new conductor, committed elsewhere, the celebrated orchestra makes its annual visit to London this weekend with two guest conductors: Daniel Barenboim and Seiji Ozawa.

I met Barenboim recently in Berlin, during sessions for a forthcoming recording of *Parsifal*, and asked him about his approach to conducting Wagner, about his unfortunate involvement with the Opéra de la Bastille project (resulting in his sacking and a legal dispute), and about his new job in Chicago, where he takes over from Sir Georg Solti as Musical Director of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra in September 1991.

Was he superstitious? Was the "ghost" of Solti going to haunt him? "No, not at all. I first conducted the orchestra in 1969 and often in the 1970s, so it is not exactly unknown territory for me. Besides, the orchestra is so flexible: they can play a Beethoven symphony in a certain way with Solti one day, and then with Giulini or me the next, and feel completely at home."

The orchestra has recently signed an exclusive contract with Erato Records for recordings made under Barenboim's baton. Plans to record Strauss symphonic poems and the requiems of Verdi and Brahms are less surprising than the prominence of contemporary music, an area not immediately associated with Barenboim. He speaks with enthusiasm of the orchestra's intention to commission new works regularly and put them on disc. "One of the reasons the Erato connection was considered so important in Chicago is the company's commitment to contemporary music. It's a great shame that a wonderful work like Lutoslawski's Third Symphony, which was commissioned by the orchestra and first played by them under Solti, should not have been recorded by those forces."

The state of contemporary music, and the relationship between performers and audiences, is so critical, Barenboim says, that something has to be done about it. "A great percentage of audiences



Barenboim: Audiences should be helped to know and accept contemporary music

comes from the pit and leads to an action on the stage — and the great directors, whether it's Donnell, Chéreau or Kupfer, each according to his own aesthetic knows how to achieve that — and sometimes they provide the impulse and the orchestra or singer reacts. Also, in terms of the music alone, at times the singer provides the impulse and you must bring the orchestra down, and at other times the orchestra leads and the singer must go along."

Another complaint had concerned his choice of tempi. "It is wrong to criticize or praise tempo modifications as an isolated phenomenon. Tempi have to be adopted for harmonic or structural reasons; without those the conducting becomes wilful. The main thing in Wagner is not the

tempo of the scenes themselves, but the transitions."

When he spoke, Barenboim was about to make the Berlin Philharmonic for the first time in its history, to Israel, where Wagner is still proscribed. Would he be packing any Wagner scores? "No, if Wagner is going to be played — and it should be played one day — it must be by an Israeli orchestra. But it should be played outside a subscription series, so that if you don't want to go, you don't have to. The Israel Philharmonic want to play Wagner. The last time I was there, we spent two rehearsals playing only Wagner, because they were interested."

And so to Paris. The French press had been humming with rumours of a return to the Bastille, and his arch-enemy Pierre Bergé,

in charge of the new complex, had spoken of a reconciliation. Did he have any comment? "I have turned a page. All that had to be said was said over a year ago." What if the faults in working practices that he had diagnosed were to be rectified? "They can't be now. The opportunity to renegotiate all contracts and start anew has been lost."

He would not be accepting Bergé's olive-branch, then? "I have no intention and no wish ever to set foot in that place and that's all."

● Daniel Barenboim conducts the Berlin Philharmonic in Schubert's Symphony No 8, "Unfinished" and Beethoven's Symphony No 3, "Eroica", at the Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (071-928 8800) tomorrow at 3.15pm.

trousness and passionate movement that contrasted with her quiet domestic demeanour and hinted at the feelings later to become more apparent. From the moment of Ashley Page's entry as the tutor Belshazzar (a slightly too knowing performance, perhaps), Brown's Natalia Petrovna was a lost woman, tragically at the prey of feelings she could dissemble but not control.

Guy Niblett provided a down to earth reading of her old admirer Rakitin, drawn in a few bold strokes. A more detailed, even finicky treatment, may be what is needed to provide the foil of pretended feelings in contrast with

the real emotion Natalia eventually discovers. A pity that the short run of this programme precludes the possibility of letting the new cast polish their first attempts.

The value of repeated performances was demonstrated by the other work on the bill, *Song of the Earth*. A cast that looked somewhat at odds in difficult circumstances at the ballet's revival a fortnight ago, was now much more in command. Darcey Bussell, in particular, danced the leading woman's role with far more control. Hers seems to be an instinctive approach to the part; she simply does what the choreog-

rapher wishes in a wholehearted way, and the shapes and sequences MacMillan devised automatically impose their own drama.

The central male role demands a heavy, even rough masculinity rather outside the general range of the Royal Ballet's repertoire and consequently of most of its leading dancers. The forcefulness and absence of refinement that have limited Antony Dowson's roles lately came into their own here, and William Trevitt as the Messenger of Death provided a sharp contrast of brooding but precisely outlined and projected movement.

JOHN PERCIVAL

## Slow-burn integrity

THEATRE  
The Crucible  
Oliver



Tom Wilkinson as Proctor

the set has a fragile, do-it-yourself look.

No wonder primitivism erupts in this embattled Eden. There is something rough-and-ready about most of the characters in Davies' production, and, as there should be, something frightening about the girls whose denunciations launch the play's spiralling disasters. They could be wilder, noisier. But their reticence only strengthens a climax in which they destructively squirm, scurry, and end up a hideous verminous heap: Clare Holman's Abigail Williams at its top, creamy queen of the maggot-nest.

Holman is one of several performers who inject more than average interest into a play which, because of its large cast, can become two-dimensional. For once we feel Abigail is deeply in love with Proctor, the man who seduced and rejected her. For once we feel her evil — and it is evil — is not altogether her fault. There is strong acting too from Zoë Wanamaker, Elizabeth Bradley, and, exuding peasant truculence, Michael Bryant.

Above all, there is Tom Wilkinson's Proctor, the kind of farmer one might find growling over the weather or his cattle today: big, mulish, dogged, defiant. His is an unpretentious integrity, an unsought martyrdom, and the more impressive for being so. The ordinary can morally triumph: Miller's encouraging message, put over here with quiet power.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

## With British help

OPERA  
63: Dream Palace  
Munich

BRADFORD Robinson reported from Munich a couple of weeks ago on a Biennale in progress. I arrived halfway through the festival and so caught two major operatic pieces, Leroy Jenkins's attempted synthesis of dance and opera, *The Mother of Three Sons* and Hans Jürgen von Bose's opera, *63: Dream Palace*.

To judge by Robinson's report, these two operas would seem to have been more considerable achievements than those that he saw: *Patmos* and *Seld* still.

At least in the case of von Bose's work the jury decides the destinies of the BMW Biennale prizes agreed with that assumption. *63: Dream Palace* walked off with the awards for best opera score, best operatic production and best stage setting.

Jonathan Moore, who produced Mark Anthony Turnage's *Greek* for the first Biennale in 1988 (his staging comes to the English National Opera later this year), was also responsible for the staging of *63: Dream Palace*.

The design of the extravagant, complicated set, with its rickety room perched high on wooden scaffolding, its kitsch suburban interior, and its dull suburban kitchen (all brought into focus by means of Kevin Sleep's clever lighting), is by another Englishman, David Blight.

Von Bose's score weaves a lavish web of varied threads, alluding (for the first time in his music) to jazz and black music in the same kind of way as Turnage's music often does, though perhaps the German composer has not yet as comfortably absorbed influences like these into his idiom. The overwhelming flavour of the piece is tragic and unashamedly,

even determinedly, romantic.

Von Bose's own libretto is based on the novella of the same name by James Purdy. The story is about the plight of a pair of brothers, Fenton, who is 19, and Claire, just a child, who are made destitute by the death of their mother. A combination of desperation and naïveté lead to Fenton's corruption by a debauched household consisting of one rich widow, Grainger (who is an amoral woman addicted to gin), and a group of sycophantic, rather nasty homosexuals.

The unhappily married Parkheart is a more human (and because of that more plausible) gay character. His love for Fenton compels him to attempt to help by introducing the boy to Grainger in the first place. Tension between the temptation of the worldly comforts offered by Grainger and the desire to look after his sick brother, who refuses to move, leads to murder.

Fenton, a demanding party lying high in the tenor register, was given with the right mixture of self-torture and innocence by Philip Sheffield, while the young Barry and Alastair Flutter, sharing the part of Claire, radiated disarming confidence. Meanwhile Omar Ebrahim invested the character of Parkheart with all the tormented passions it required and Eileen Hulse, as his wife Bella, conveyed vividly the haunting fear of insecurity and the torture of knowing but being unable to acknowledge the realities that stare her in the face.

The entertaining, yet deeply disturbing, surreal party scene is perhaps too long, but it was presided over by Patricia Bardon as Grainger in appositely tarty style, aided and abetted by the sinister, smarmy countertenor of Malcolm Smith, as Bruno, and the only bass Patrick Donnelly as the arrogant would-be thespian Hayden. Alicia Mounk conducted the superb Ensemble Modern of Frankfurt.

STEPHEN PETTIT

AFTER the excitement of Wednesday's tribute to Margot Fonteyn, it was back to normal (or almost normal) at Covent Garden on Thursday night. There was, however, another new exponent of the central role of *A Month in the Country*: Tracy Brown in her first leading role.

Her potential for the part cannot exactly be called an unknown quantity, for she has proved her ability in several important supporting roles, including some such as Bertha in *Onegin* and the Empress in *Mayeul*, which rely chiefly on acting ability and strength of character.

Consequently, she cannot be

On Monday:  
Hello to Berlin  
An exclusive  
interview with  
Peter Schaufuss,  
until recently the  
director of English  
National Ballet,  
by John Percival

● *Caste at Birth* will be broadcast on Monday at 9pm on Channel 4



Mother and child in *Caste at Birth*: A recurrent Hamermesh image

TELEVISION  
**Talent for tears**  
Film-maker Mira Hamermesh, whose work takes "war, injustice and women" as its themes, interviewed by Emma Klein

As a film-maker, Mira Hamermesh has an unfulfilled dream — to make people laugh. As she says, however: "I discovered, in film after film, that my real talent is to make people cry." Haunted by the concept of the "Pietà", the image of the mother lamenting the death of her child is prevalent in almost every film and recurs at the end of her latest documentary, *Caste at Birth*, to be screened next Monday on Channel 4.

"This is no gratuitous *leitmotif*," she says. "The woman in my film mourns the massacre of her family — but for the grace of God could have been a member of my family." A child in pre-Holocaust Poland, Hamermesh, like her brother and sister, owes her escape from ghetto-life and the hardships of war to the resourcefulness of her businessman father. She is indebted to him, too, for another, equally significant escape, from "the deprived and dispossessed" status of the majority of woman-kind. As "daddy's girl", she was "given the licence to go out into the world and be at home in the world."

Hence the obsession with "war, injustice and women", which informs most of her films, is the result of intuitive rather than direct experience. A "privileged woman", able to relate to men as an equal from pre-feminist times, Hamermesh trained at the Slade School under Josef Herman and established herself as a figurative painter of repute. A major exhibition at the Brook Gallery in the 1970s, favourably reviewed by Edward Lucie-Smith, had as its salient theme "the image of a seated woman or girl... sewing, drinking from a cup or just sitting", a natural precursor of her determination, as a film-maker, to increase "women's" visibility. By "giving the screen as much as possible to the female presence in conflicts and public issues of importance", she is challenging the "Mother Courage" ideal which consigns women to picking up the pieces.

In renouncing the contemplative life of a painter for the chaos and bustle of the film world, more suited to her restless temperament, Hamermesh was taking on a medium in which she could exploit her visual flair and love of storytelling. A pilgrimage, in 1960, to her mother's grave in Łódź, Poland, led her fortuitously to the renowned Polish film school, where she became the first Westerner to win a scholarship.

The insight she gained into both sides of the Iron Curtain from four years of commuting between London and Warsaw, and intimations of feminist consciousness, inspired her to make *Two Women* for Jeremy Isaacs at Thames Television in 1973. By choosing as protagonists a working class woman in Birmingham and a privileged, intellectual party member in Budapest, Hamermesh inverted the perceived cultural stereotypes and created a chink in the Iron Curtain through a female perspective.

On another level, her journey to Poland resurrected a relationship with the mother she had barely known. Nowadays, as a result of her "bondage" to her mother's "incomprehension and dispossession", she feels impelled to "explain to her the life that she never saw" by travelling around the world, making films and using her eyes on her behalf.

The vital link between her mother, an outcast after the Nazi invasion, and the women of the "untouchable" caste she saw in the villages of India, clinched Mira's decision to make *Caste at Birth*, which completes what she, as an artist, perceives as a triptych of award-winning documentaries about conflict, conceived in the early 1980s.

Winner of the prestigious Prix Italia, *Maiden and Madams*, shown in 1985, depicts racial tension in South Africa through relationships between black domestics and their white employers, while *Talking to the Enemy*, screened in December 1987, humanizes the Israeli-Palestinian struggle through an encounter between a Palestinian journalist and an Israeli editor.

*Caste at Birth* is also a way of paying tribute to her friend, Dr Mulk Raj Anand, who wrote *The Untouchables* (now a Penguin Classic), in the 1930s. A degree of subterfuge was needed to film so sensitive a subject in India, and reactions are likely to be impassioned.

But Mira Hamermesh is not deterred by controversy. As a Jew and a feminist, she is distressed by the idea that at birth your destiny and the limits of your humanity are determined by other people. If film-making is a passion and an obsession, it is also a way to share her *Weltanschauung* with a global audience.



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## RECORDS

## Key to a mastermind's skill

## CLASSICAL

Paul Griffiths

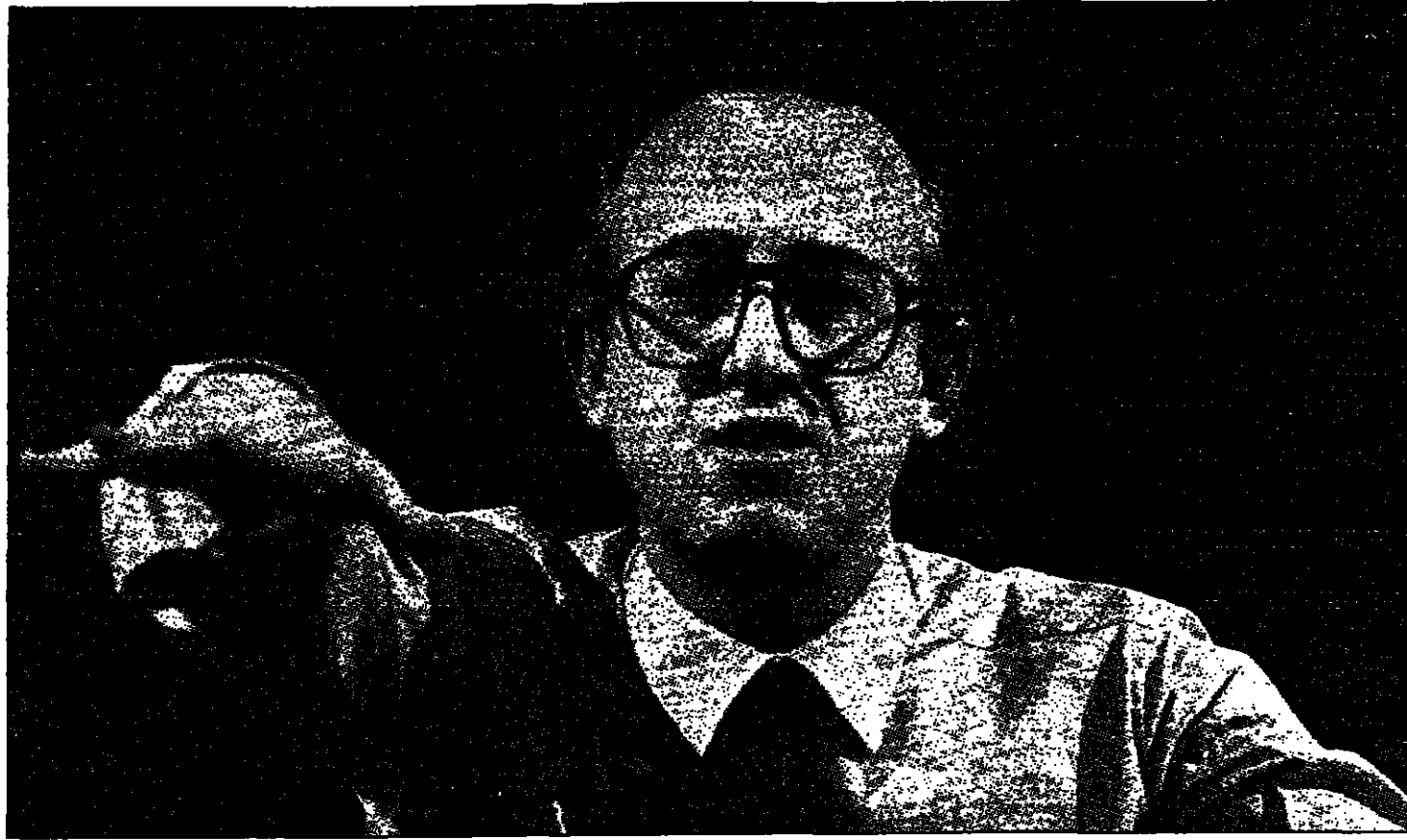
Liszt: Sonata, etc. Pollini. DG 427 322-2  
Schumann, Schoenberg: Piano concertos. Pollini, Berlin PO/Abbado. DG 427 771-2  
Beethoven: Piano sonatas op.101 and op. 106. Pollini. DG 429 558-2  
Beethoven: Piano sonatas op.106, op.110 and op.111. Pollini. DG 429 570-2

Pollini's reputation as an "intellectual" player probably comes from this: that he seems to want to know every chord, every note, every colour, every rhythm he produces. The mind refuses to let the fingers get away with what comes naturally to them: everything has to be tested, sharpened, every detail has to be minutely examined during the process of performance. Nothing is taken for granted, least of all the sense and wholeness of any gesture; there is no fiddling here, no splashy rhetoric, but a conscious building from the elements, even when the speed is at the limits of physical possibility.

This might make Pollini seem an unlikely performer for one of the most flamboyantly rhetorical pieces in the repertoire, Liszt's B minor Sonata, but in fact the piece benefits enormously from his extreme virtuosity constantly questioned by the probing and analysis that come from a search for knowledge. There is enormous weight to this recording, not least because of Pollini's characteristically mighty bass playing, but the variety of tone and texture here is extraordinary — as extraordinary as the control with which that variety is created.

Also important is the rhythmic shaping, the identification of a very decisive point of emphasis in almost every phrase: it is this that seems to give an implacable urgency to the performance even through its markedly disjoint sections, though some urgency comes, too, from Pollini's occasional grunt-sung exhortations to himself. Important matters are at stake here; the performance is a rage of musical thinking.

It is also, for all its moments of brilliance and calm, an essentially dark performance, and it comes appropriately coupled with four dark pieces from Liszt's last years: *Nuages gris*, *Unstern* — *Silence*, the first *La lugubre gondola* and



Intellectual approach: Maurizio Pollini's mind refuses to let his fingers get away with what comes naturally; everything has to be tested

R.W. — *Venezia*. The massive weight and insistence of *Unstern* make it sound like proto-Nono, while the other, generally quieter pieces, recorded at a public recital in Vienna, speak a powerful language of uncertainty.

Fundamentally this is a musical uncertainty, a doubt about how, and indeed if, the music can continue in a style that has almost lost harmonic bearings, whether because the tritone is king, as in *Nuages gris*, or because diatonic chords are bitterly paraded as functionless, as in the weird tribute to Wagner. At a time when Liszt's music is probably being more deeply understood than ever before, this record still has a very great deal to tell us, elating and troublingly.

The concerto record is a little less essential. This is still very obviously Pollini, discovering, right from his first yelp in the Schumann, a sense of solitariness and self-musing that justifies great variety of character, sudden change and pervasive intensity.

But the solitariness is necessarily compromised in a concerto, and often the orchestra can seem

redundant or even — when the soloist is forced into dialogue — an embarrassment.

It goes without saying that everything Pollini does in the Schumann is worth hearing: indeed, in such a warhorse his refusal of easy options is all the more revealing. But he seems most comfortable, if that is quite the word for so discomfiting a musician, when the accompaniment is non-existent or minimal, so that the performance swings between patches of high-anxiety musical exploration and others where the temperature is a lot lower.

The pairing of Schumann with Schoenberg has some point in that both concertos have cross-references between movements, but the real justification is again Pollini's contribution. Here, with Abbado showing the orchestral part to be as savagely colourful as *Moses und Aron* and at times as yearning as Berg, Pollini seems much more closely keyed into what is going on around him, and once again, as in the Liszt record, his clamouring bass and the intensity of his articulation make one feel the music has never been plumed so deeply.

It would be ridiculous, of

course, to claim as much of any recordings of the late Beethoven sonatas, and yet Pollini's versions of the mid-1970s, now re-released for the first time on CD, compel attention for the completeness with which his gifts as a musician — implacability, a range from ethereal brilliance to base-heavy massiveness, a way of integrating ferocity and strangeness into a continuing discourse — mesh with the demands of the music. Every bar sounds like Pollini, and yet, because there is nothing exhibitionist or self-serving in his approach, every bar at the same time is Beethoven.

## CLASSICAL UPDATE

Berlioz: *La damnation de Faust*. Soloists, Edinburgh Festival Chorus, Lyons Opera Orchestra/Gardiner. Philips 426 199-2 (two CDs). This performance from the 1987 Berlioz Festival is led by Michael Myers, a compelling singer in the Vickers mould, though too often here worryingly strained. There is a vivid Mephistopheles from

Jean-Philippe Lafont and a lovely Marguerite from Anne-Sophie von Otter, and the choral singing sounds as French as the orchestral playing.

Haydn: *Quartets op.74*. Endellion, Virgin VC 7 91097-2. These are public quartets, but the Endellion give them appealingly quiet, intimate performances, never forcing the pace, and yet registering the intensity of the G minor quartet

and the suavity of the C major. Discreet ornamentation is another sign of their astuteness.

Debussy, Ravel: *Quartets*. Emerson, DG 427 320-2. Supremely virtuosic playing puts every note in place to render the rich and varied textures perfectly. The Emerson also respond beautifully to Debussy's rhythmic subtlety, and even bring out unexpected wit.

## Crowning glories

Monteverdi: *L'incoronazione di Poppea*. Soloists, City of London Baroque Singers/Vickox (Virgin VCT 7 80775-2) (three CDs). A Venetian Coronation 1665 Gabrieli Consort and Players/McCreesh (Virgin VC 7 91110-2)

HERE are two evocative recreations of Venetian occasions: of the first performance of Monteverdi's last opera in the Teatro Grimani in the winter of 1642-43, and of the coronation of Doge Marino Grimani in St Mark's on April 27, 1595.

The problems, of course, are different in the two cases. The editor of *L'incoronazione di Poppea*, Clifford Bartlett, has a source score to render as nakedly as possible, whereas Paul McCreesh's "reconstruction" has to be largely speculative, its main aim being, as he admits, to provide a "richer, more colourful and more dramatic perspective" for music of the period that happens to have survived.

There is also the difference that an opera performance, no matter how antiquarian, lives in the present by virtue of the individualized voices of the singers. Hearing McCreesh's selection of majestic choral items, solemn canzonas and little organ intonations, all in the context of Italian-

ate chant, one can easily imagine oneself back through four centuries and into the doge's ostentatiously public private chapel, but the soloists of *Poppea* keep one in the here and now.

Or rather in the here and yesterday, since this is a recording of the 1988 Spitalfields Festival production, in which, as in the more recent Coliseum *Ulisse*, simple instrumental support provided a sensuous bedding for the voices, showing us late Monteverdi as an almost continuous rhapsody of expressive vocal melody. Of course, such an approach needs singers who can stand the intimate exposure, and here the cast is almost uniformly excellent. At the head is Della Jones's lusciously hedonistic Nero, partnered by the delectable Poppaea of Arleen Auger.

There are also fine things from Gregory Reinhart as Seneca, James Bowman as Otho, Sarah Leonard as Drusilla and Samuel Linay as a treble Cupid. Altogether the performance is at once fresh and sophisticated: new with the newness of opera at this period, and decadent with the decadence it had so rapidly achieved in exploiting the ravishment of the solo voice.

P. G.



Perfect throat-clearing: Sir Michael Hordern reads Jeeves

## Hordern serves well

## SPOKEN WORD

Peter Davalle

Jeeves and the Foul Spirit (BBC Radio Collection, ZBC 1116). The Great Switcheroo, by Ronald Dahl (Collins Caddison, CDL 1515145).

Faithless in its period detail, Richard Osborne's Radio 4 adaptations of the Wooster/Jeeves canon are uncannily respectful to Wodehouse. This should not surprise anyone since Osborne is our leading P.G.W. exegete. Where opinions may differ is over the casting of Richard Briers as Bertie and Sir Michael Hordern as Jeeves. In my book, no gentleman's gentleman

can clear his throat as deferentially as Hordern, and not even Hugh Laurie's Wooster on ITV (in all other respects, Bertie to the life) can manage to misquote Voltaire with such gay abandon as Briers's Wooster.

The Great Switcheroo is Dahl strictly for broadminded adults. Here are two husbands, next-door neighbours, working out a highly complicated masterplan which will allow each of them sexual access to the other's unsuspecting wife. It is a novel kind of adultery and, presumably to emphasize the innovative nature of the plot, the tricky task of reading the story has been given to a woman (Patricia Neal), who has to convince us that she is inside both the skin, and the bed, of one of the erotic plotters.

## Savouring a fear of sacrilege

Shostakovich: *Chamber Symphony Op. 110a/Symphony for Strings Op. 118a*. Chamber Orchestra of Europe/Borishai (DG 429 229-2)

basins in the last, the COE entirely persuade us of their case. The spectral central movement's natural alternation between solo and tutti groups provides for a yet more chilling distortion effect as solo lines intertwine in their ghostly waltz. And the cello solo, which lifts the movement for a

brief moment into the major, gives a still more telling echo of Lady Macbeth.

If the Scherzo's *dance macabre* has the most to gain from the physicality of a full orchestra, then the corresponding movement in the Symphony for Strings (Tenth Quartet) is even more a *tour de force* on Borishai's part. Shostakovich's original *furioso* is savaged by the many-headed monster of the orchestra, its shivering bows, digging deep into its unison violin writing.

For the long, lamenting passacaglia which ensues, the venue comes into its own. The orchestra is seldom happier than when playing in the Kammermusiksaal of the Berlin Philharmonie, and both its acoustic, and the recording balance, give wonderful space for the full, untangled resonance of each widely spaced string part.

HILARY FINCH

## A-Z GUIDE TO ROCK

Part 32 of David Sinclair's collectors' A-Z, a guide to the essential albums of the most enduring performers of rock. To qualify for inclusion in this series, an act

must have sustained a recording career of at least 10 years, and have mustered at least one decent album during that time. The entries are designed to be pasted

on to index cards and stored in a bin by 4in filing box, available from most good stationery shops, to form an instant guide to the hits and misses of rock history.

## BOB MARLEY

The baton lies where it fell, and nine years after his death Bob Marley remains the greatest reggae star of all time. With his group the Wailers he transformed reggae's impact abroad, transporting the languid Jamaican syncretisms from the fringes of specialist import shops and skinhead dance halls to the centre of the international music scene. *Marley* (1972) and *Natty Dread* (1975) played a key part in this development and both are albums of enduring significance. However, those who witnessed his London Lyceum concert in July 1975 still speak with reverence of those events as something of a magical turning point. The resulting album, *Live* (1975, later reissued *Live at the Lyceum*), which includes "I Shot The Sheriff", "Get Up Stand Up" and the achingly poignant "No Woman No Cry", is the most vivid testament to Marley's uncanny ability to articulate a universal spiritual truth through his music. Legend, a posthumous No 1 in 1984 collects all the hits: "Jamming", "Stir It Up", "Is This Love" and many more.



The best: Marley

like "You Took The Words Right Out Of My Mouth" and "Paradise By The Dashboard Light", songs which seek to ascend peaks of sleazy nirvana the hard way. But while Meat provided the lyrics, and an unsightly stage presence, the brains behind the project was producer and songwriter Jim Steinman, a heavy metal version of Phil Spector. Steinman and Meat collaborated for the second and last time on *Dead Ringer* (1981) a similarly baroque collection, notorious for Cher's spunky duet with Meat on "Dead Ringer For Love". *Hits Out Of Hell* (1985) is a sensible compilation.

## MEAT LOAF

NEXT WEEK: John Cougar Mellencamp, Joni Mitchell

## ROCK UPDATE

Martin Stephenson & the Daintees: *Salutation Road* (Kitchenware 828198.1) The Tynesiders' most assured collection yet. Sophisticated protest-tinged pop in a discretely jazzy vein. Big Country: *Through a Big Country* — Greatest Hits (Mercury 846 022-1) Recapitulation of the career of the checked-shirt rockers that time forgot. Galloping anthems that never quite became household sounds. Kid Creole and the Coconuts: *Private Waters in the Great Divide* (CBS 466251.1) Cheeky August Darnell bounces back with another brassy rissive on his favourite subject. With titles like "I Love Girls", "No More

Casual Sex". "When Lucy Does the Boomerang" and the hit single "The Sex of it", he sounds like a downmarket version of Prince.

The Pretenders: *Packed!* (WEA 9031 71403-1) Latest missive from Chrissie Hynde. Nothing new to report, but the traditional jangly guitars, breathy, quavering vocals and Hendrix cover version ("May This Be Love") are all present and correct.

World Party: *Goodbye Jumbo* (Ensign CHEN 10) Strong second album from group fronted by ex-Waterboys keyboardist Karl Wallinger. A fashionably doomy, ecological theme pervades a crisp intelligent collection of songs. Etta James: *Stickin' to my Guns* (Island ILPS 9955)

Rehabilitated Sixties R'n'B singer in fine fettle as she belts her way through material ranging from vintage Otis Reading ("I've Got Dreams to Remember") to modern dancefloor funk ("Get Funky" featuring LA rapper Def Jef).

The Del Fuegos: *Smoking in the Fields* (RCA PL 90422) The Bostonians have calmed down since their 1987 masterpiece *Stand Up*, but there is still plenty of verve in their well-oiled combination of R'n'B, soul and rock'n'roll.

Soul II Soul: *Vol II* — 1990 A New Decade (10 DIX 90) Second instalment of languid, irresistible grooves courtesy of the charismatic Jazzebo B and an impressive cast of guests. Unquestionably the force of the moment.

## Trombonist with a fluent bonhomie

## JAZZ

Clive Davis

James Morrison: *Snappy Doo* (WEA 9031-71211)  
Jack Teagarden: *That's A Serious Thing* (RCA/Bluebird ND-90440)  
Bill Allred's Goodtime Jazz Band: *Swing That Music* (Big Bear CD31)

Last week's visit to London by the Steve Turre-Robin Eubanks Quintet prompted thoughts — most of them gloomy — on the future of the trombone in modern jazz. The arrival of the third album by the young Australian James Morrison shows that there is still some room for optimism.

The trombone is, in fact, only a small part of Morrison's armoury: he also plays trumpet, saxophones, euphonium and piano. Nevertheless, he brings to the instrument a fluency and velvet tone that are often lacking in other modern improvisers. As a vehicle for his talents, *Snappy Doo* exudes a sense of ease and bonhomie.

The album divides roughly into two halves. On the one hand are the conventional quartet performances with Morrison's colleagues from the Philip Morris Superband: bassist Ray Brown, guitarist Herb Ellis and drummer Jeff Hamilton. Scattered elsewhere are what appear to be big band tracks, but which are, in reality, the fruits of over-dubbing, with Morrison creating his own brass and reed sections.

There is bound to be an air of gimmickry about all this. Morrison's multi-instrumentalist skills probably need to be seen in the flesh in order to be fully appreciated. Still, it says something for his skill as an arranger that the lush ensemble work on "Le Belledaire Blues" could well be mistaken for the work of the post-Fifties Count Basic Orchestra. There is certainly none of the over-the-top showbiz of the Superband.

Morrison occasionally comes dangerously close to easy-listening jazz on "The Shadow Of Your Smile" and "But Beautiful". The lack of a top-drawer pianist is also

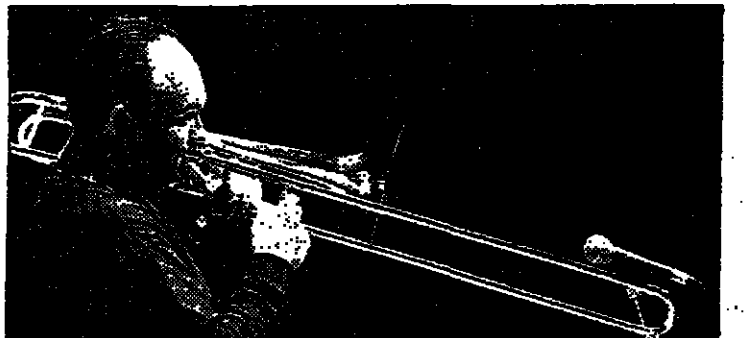
felt at times. Morrison's urbane trumpet, however, is eminently flexible on "You Are My Sunshine". He deserves credit for taking risks with such a broad selection of material, down to "The Old Rugged Cross", a brass band arrangement with all the gospel swagger of Lester Bowie's Brass Fantasy.

The greatest trombonist of them all, Jack Teagarden, is well served by the splendid Bluebird compilation, which runs from his first recorded solo in 1928 to a Bud Freeman date three decades later. Along the way there is room for collaborations with Eddie Condon, Benny Goodman and Fats Waller, not forgetting "St James Infirmary", from the justly celebrated Town Hall concert with Louis Armstrong.

With his brilliant yet inconspicuous technique and his commanding voice, the Texan imposes his personality on all the pieces — even on the novelty numbers and the stiff-necked "symphonic jazz" of the Paul Whiteman Orchestra. Teagarden may not have enjoyed the same degree of success with his own big band (a period not represented on this album), but the performances here make an unarguable case for his inclusion in the pantheon.

Bill Allred, meanwhile, provides evidence for the view that there is still some mileage left in contemporary Dixieland jazz. A former sideman with cornet player Wild Bill Davison, the trombonist leads a Florida-based band staffed partly by veterans from Disneyworld. The theme park is, it seems, one of the last havens for Dixieland musicians.

Recorded at last summer's Birmingham Jazz Festival, the album is an excuse for another run-through of "Struttin' With Some Barbecue" and a heavy dose of the blues, from the Linehouse to Royal Garden variety. To agnostics, it still sounds like the kind of entertainment which demands to be seen rather than heard on the turntable. The musicianship, however, is far above the usual standard. In terms of proficiency, this is concert hall, not pub jazz.



Velvet tones: James Morrison shows there is room for optimism

## JAZZ UPDATE

Cannonball Adderley Quintet: *Cannonball in Japan* (Capitol CDP7-83560) "Mercy, Mercy, Mercy" "This Here" and "Work Song" take the honours in a 1966 concert which shows the soul-jazz engine running just as smoothly as it was in the late Fifties.

The Harper Brothers: *Remembrance* — Live At The Village Vanguard (Verve 841723) Drummer Winard and

trumpeter Philip lead one of America's more individual hard bop quintets. The self-named numbers are a little scholastic, but there are soaring performances on Horace Silver's "Kiss Me Right" and Bobby Wellins's "CB".

Tommy Chase Band: *Rebel Fire* (Moles Records MRIL-002) British hard bop from the drummer's new organ-led line-up. Brash and occasionally crude, the dance beat is still more appealing than the art school product from more fashionable names.

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## GARDENING

Francesca Greenoak visits Beatrix Potter's Cumbrian garden, the habitat of Tom Kitten and Peter Rabbit

## In the footsteps of Mr McGregor

In the small farmhouse garden of Hill Top at Near Sawrey in Cumbria, the main design reference is not a landscape textbook but the accomplished watercolours of Beatrix Potter, or Mrs Heelis, as she preferred to be known in this Lake District village. She bought the farm at Hill Top with a little money which came her way in 1905 and it was her private joy until she managed to escape the threat of her possessive family, and married local solicitor William Heelis.

How nice to work in the setting for the beautifully illustrated, unsentimental stories of Jemima Puddleduck and Tom Kitten. The young gardener Peter Tasker thinks so, too; although he was not brought up on the Potter stories, the copies at Hill Top are well thumbed.

Hill Top is, as its name suggests, on the brow of one of the hills that rise above Esthwaite Water, not far from the place where the ferry comes over the waist of Lake Windermere. This is a part of the Lake District which Jill Latham, who with her husband looks after Beatrix Potter's farmhouse for the National Trust, describes as "domestic Lakeland" - softer and gentler than the wild Wordsworthian fells and with a relatively mild climate.

Proving her words, she points out a beautiful full-grown Enkianthus, with its dense pink-tinged heather-bell flowers - not a tree which will survive harsh conditions. In the vegetable garden, globe artichokes survive the winters well, merely wigwagged by bracken to protect them from wind and cold.

The one-and-a-half acre

garden is L-shaped, with a long border and bed stretching downhill beside a field which serves as a paddock and small orchard. The happy confusion of fruit, flowers, herbs and vegetables looks at its most attractive at this time of year. The Whitbams Industry gooseberries are swelling and beginning to change from green to ripe red, and the chives, camomile and thyme are in fragrant flower. Hardy geraniums make colourful cushions among the pinks and blues of Canterbury bells and the bright green foliage of lettuce.

The soil is rather poor and full of slate, so Mr Tasker is bringing it into better condition with home-made compost and manure from the farms. This is added every winter to improve structure and fertility but, even in this relatively poor ground, hardy plants such as foxgloves and hollyhocks and butter-yellow mulleins raise tall turrets of bloom above their lower companions. Lady's mantle fills in any space where it can find a footing, on the stony beds and along the paths.

A college-trained gardener found it a little strange at first to adapt to the informality of this garden, which not only permits plants such as these to self-seed among the beds but encourages tufts of grass to peek from the slate pathside and the edging tiles. "I had to hold myself back at first," Mr Tasker says, "but I've grown to like it now. It has an attractive softening effect and it's quite a skill to maintain exactly the right balance, not overgrown, but not too tidy."

In the long sloping bed there is a new trellis with "ostrich egg" decorations on the top of



its posts, made to the description of a Sawrey villager who used to be gardener at Hill Top and could remember the garden in its heyday. The border opposite is backed by a stone wall which shelters and supports larger shrubs and climbers.

Following on from the flowering cherry and scented viburnum bushes, the lilacs make a fine and fragrant show in early summer, and wisteria hangs in rich bunches all over the outhouse.

On the other axis of the

garden, stepping down in wide terraced steps from the farmhouse, is a small but productive garden of fruit, herbs and vegetables. Here, the visitor can see the rhubarb in which Jemima Puddleduck attempted to conceal her eggs. There are all the crops which a domestic household might need: carrots and radishes, French and dwarf beans, potatoes, currants and strawberries. A cordon of raspberries hides three capacious compost bins.

This part of the garden is a

great favourite with its gardener, who likes the combination of growing "for visual appeal as well as productivity. I use the red and the silver stemmed chard, for example, to brighten up the rows of cabbages and sprouts." Surely Beatrix Potter would approve; her exact studies of fungi are now well-known, but she also made watercolours of individual sketches and paintings of fruit, flowers and vegetables, including onions and broad beans in flower. (The range of her work is

shown in a new book, *Beatrix Potter's Art*, by Anne Stevenson Hobbs, published by Warner, £17.99.)

Mr Tasker has made good use of the drystone walling of the terrace sides and the outer walls, with small flowering herbs such as chives, camomile and thyme growing from them, and Morello cherry is trained up the higher walls. Visitors may not see many of the animals Beatrix Potter observed so precisely, but the occasional rabbit will slip into the vegetable garden.

## WEEKEND TIPS

- Trim privet, Leyland cypress and hawthorn, if it requires it. Keep clear of places where birds are nesting.
- Keep deadheading pot geraniums (pelargoniums) to promote continuous flowering.
- Pick small gooseberries to make pies.
- Chop and dig in (or compost) ripe green manure (field beans, and so on), before it gets too stummy or sets seed.

**DEVON:** Farrants, Kilmington (2m W of Axminster A35, turn S at Kilmington Cross into Whitford Road, garden ¼ mile on left). Colourful one-acre garden with stream plants, shrubs and ground cover. Adult 50p, child free. Today, tomorrow, 2.30-6pm.

**SOMERSET:** East Lambrook Manor Garden (2m NE of South Petherton, off A303 to South Petherton, then left to East Lambrook at bottom of hill). Large cottage garden

## GARDENS TO VISIT

once owned by garden writer Margery Fish, with many of her special plants. Plant sales. Teas. Adult £1.50, child 50p. Tomorrow, 10am-5pm.

**NORTHAMPTONSHIRE:** Cotton Lodge (take A428 Northampton/Rugby Rd, in West Haddon follow Gulsborough signs for 2m; garden on right). Old one and a half acre farmhouse gardens, with water and sunken gardens, silver and white plants, rock

garden and alpine, nut walk. Adult £1, child free. Teas. Tomorrow, 2-5.30pm.

**SUFFOLK:** Hartshill Nursery, Walsingham le Willows (12m NE Bury St Edmunds; take Westhorpe Road from Walsingham le Willows, nursery 2m on left). Gardens, arboretum, woodland, bulbs, alpine and roses on 16 acres. Plant sales. Teas. Adult 60p, child free. Tomorrow, 2-6pm.

## OUTINGS

**GREENWICH FESTIVAL:** One of the best festivals in the London calendar, now in its 29th year, with hundreds of events during the next 15 days. This year's theme, Frontiers, reflects recent developments in Eastern Europe, and performers from all over Europe, South Africa and South America will be present. Family entertainments today include an open day at Blackheath Concert Hall, with workshops, demonstrations and concerts, and history and wildlife walks: Historic Woolwich, St Mary's Church, 10am; Wildlife in Greenwich, Greenwich Borough Hall, noon, with packed lunch; Historic Woolwich, Greenwich Tourist Centre, 1pm. Also the Blackheath village fair, with plenty of family entertainment from 2pm, and the Street Entertainers of the Year competition at Cutty Sark gardens from 1pm. Tomorrow, at Charlton House, there is a fair with family entertainment; children's puppet show at Greenwich Theatre at 2.30pm; also at 2.30pm, a nature show - meet Bostall Hill. Greenwich. Today until June 17. Further details from the festival box-office, 151 Powis Street, London SE18 (081-317 8687).

**GIPSY AIR DAY:** A wide range of planes powered by De Havilland's famous "Gipsy" engines, including racing and long-distance route-blasters from the 1930s. Also road vehicles, big band and an opportunity to win a flight in the Miles Magister or a DH Tiger Moth. Refreshments. The Shuttleworth Collection, Old Warden Aerodrome, Biggleswade, Bedfordshire. Tomorrow. Gates open 10am, flying display from 2pm. Admission, car with driver £5, with one passenger £2, with up to four passengers £10. Pedestrian/cyclist £3. Senior citizens/child five-16 £2.

**DICKENS FESTIVAL:** Annual event with numerous Victorian entertainments, including a grand Dickensian costumed procession and ball, big top in the castle gardens with the Zippo Victorian Circus - no animals - Victorian sports, games, street entertainers, readings, concerts, a fireworks display over the Meadows and, tomorrow, a candlelit procession to the grand finale, *Lionheart*, a son et lumiere production telling the story of Richard I as told by Charles Dickens. Rochester, Kent. Today, tomorrow. Further information from The TIC, Eastgate Cottage, High Street, Rochester.

**ANNUAL HOUSEKEEPERS' SUMMER:** Living history events in which all the Shugborough staff and many volunteers don period costume to recreate life, upstairs and downstairs, as it was 100 years ago in an English country estate. Shugborough, Milford, near Stafford. Tomorrow, 11am-5pm. Adult £3, child £1.50. Includes admission to mansion house and museum.

**MOTORCADE '90:** Parade of vintage cars and motor cycles. Also the carriage and country estate museum, house, garden and other attractions open. Refreshments. Breamore House, Breamore, Leicestershire. Tomorrow, from 11am. Adult £2, child £1.

**SHEEP FAIR:** Many different breeds of sheep on show, traditional shearing, and a shepherd and sheepdog demonstration in the afternoon. Also demonstrations of spinning, weaving, knitting and smoking. Manor Farm, Upper Hamble Country Park, Bursledon, Hampshire. Tomorrow, 10am-5pm. Adult £1.50, child £1. Family tickets - two adults plus up to three children - £4. Car park £1.

**THE BIG DAY:** Part of Glasgow 90 celebrations. Street party begins at 1.30pm in city centre, from 1.30pm at The People's Palace, Glasgow Green, a host of international performers. Music on the riverside stage, Scottish and Irish bands in George Square. Rock concert at 5pm at The Haugh. Free. Glasgow. Tomorrow.

**KENWOOD LAKESIDE OPENING CONCERT:** First Night Favourites, including Baroque's *Roman Carnival* and Tchaikovsky's *Overture to Romeo and Juliet*. Take picnic. Kenwood, Hampstead Lane, London NW3. Tonight 7.30pm. Tickets: chairs, adult £7.50, child £3.50; grass, adult £5, child £2.50. Credit card bookings (071-379 4444).

**CARRIAGE DRIVING TRIALS:** Last two days of this three-day event for all driving enthusiasts - finals tomorrow. Also pony rides, hot air balloons, children's entertainments, trade stands and refreshments. Holker Hall, Cark-in-Cartmel, Grange-over-Sands, Cumbria. Today, tomorrow, 9.30am-4pm. Admission today £3.50, tomorrow £4. Child £1 both days.

**OPEN DANCE FESTIVAL:** Dance groups from all over the country take part in a multi-cultural event with ballet, contemporary dance, African, Indian and many other dance styles represented. Paddington Recreation Ground, Maidua Vale, London W5. Today, tomorrow, 11am-5pm. Free.

Judy Froshang

## HOMES &amp; GARDENS

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## SHOPPING: SWIMWEAR

## Flaunting a new shape on the beach

The new swimwear  
has little to do  
with modesty  
— more with  
showing off  
back-in-fashion  
curves, reports  
Liz Smith

The three tiny triangles of a bikini which, along with a slick of suntan oil, a sarong, a good book and a shady hat, used to be every sunworshipper's simple solution to dressing for the beach, look distinctly demode today.

It is not just that changing attitudes to more careful sunbathing have demanded more covered-up styles. The fact is that a suntan, like cigarettes, flaunted happily as the smart accessory since the 1930s, is recognized today as ageing and dangerous.

This summer, the one-piece will be the fashionable way to undress. There has been a switch, too, in fashion from the cult of androgynous boyishness to a rounder, more womanly silhouette, manifest in the new curves fashion models cultivate. Designer collections for the new decade, with a crop of colourful, shapely swimsuits in the stores this summer, are the prettiest that we have seen for many years.

Faced with the knowledge that a swimsuit need not be

'Swimsuits in the stores this summer are the prettiest that we have seen for many years'

pared down to the minimum, simply for sunbathing, designers seem to have lavished care on the cut of their creations and taken the trouble to incorporate flattering details. A pretty, scooped neckline with cap sleeves, a glamorous Rita Hayworth décolleté, plunging to a deep V from an off-the-shoulder line, a stylish square-cut back and front, all contribute a graceful line to the top half which most women, however pear-shaped otherwise, will be happy to flaunt.

The revival of engineering skills in underwiring and lightly padding a well-cut corset top creates the fashionable, and more realistic, bosomy look. Today's soft, stretchy, hi-tech fabrics need little help, thankfully, from bones and the half-cup bras, and fashionable halter plunging tops do little more than echo the armoured corsetry of the 1950s styles they resemble.

The swimwear in two of London's more fashion-alert stores, Fenwick in New Bond Street and Harvey Nichols in Knightsbridge, always stand out as buoys marking the fashionable styles of the season. The drift is away from the sportier, kauba suits that stretch from shoulder to thigh in screaming, fluorescent Lycra towards the softer styles

shown here. In both, graphic nautical stripes and the lush flowers and animal markings of a tropical jungle stand out as the most vibrant prints of the summer. The leopard print one-piece, (Gottex make a dash version for £71), with or without its matching gauzy sarong, as paraded by the Princess of Wales while on holiday on Necker earlier in spring, is a fashionable look of the season.

Matt black, which always looked chic against the bronze all-over "body stocking" of a suntan that once was the essential trophy of a holiday, sets off just as prettily the gentler golden glow achieved today with the high-protection sunscreens. Sunny yellow, apricot and pink, in solid

blocks of colour, or striped with black or white, are hot favourites. Interesting textures like crushed stretchy velvet (as in our photograph, above left) or metallic bronze, gold or silver add lushness to the prettier styles.

Swimwear designer Gideon Oberson, who forecasts more curve and shape in second-skin swimsuits for next year, also promises an even plushier fabric in the swim soon, a Lycra that looks for all the world like suede.

If a perfectly plain, demure maillot with a tank top is on your shopping list, Miss Selfridge's plain swimsuit, with a square neck and low square-cut back in matt black, coral or purple, is good value at £13.99. Miss Selfridge's

raffia "hula" skirt on a plain swimsuit takes the price up to £24.99.

Besides the dashing yellow and black striped, cross-backed swimsuit shown here, Next do a good off-the-shoulder style for £18.99, and a black and white striped bikini (if you must) for £16.99. The Gap's traditional tank-topped swimsuits in pastel flowery prints are priced £26.

One of the brightest splashes in swimwear again this summer is made by Ken Done, with colourful checks and stylized flower prints. Fenwick stock this Australian line, which puts together sarong, purse, bag, sunhat, sunglasses, visor, shorts and shirts in a mix of pattern for the full holiday package.



Jade and pink underwired swimsuit, £65, Gottex, Fenwick, W1; Dikins & Jones, W1; John Lewis, branches nationwide; Franks of Golders Green, 70-71 Golders Green Road, NW11; House of Fraser, Manchester. Sunglasses, £44, Cutter & Franks of Golders Green, SW1; Pollicino, 63 South Molton Street, W1; The Changing Room, 16 Knightsbridge, SW1; 123 Candleriggs, Glasgow. Gilt, drop ear-rings, £39, Pallini, Harrods, 8 High Street, Tunbridge Wells; Ichi Ni San, 123 Candleriggs, Glasgow. Gilt, drop ear-rings, £39, Pallini, Harrods, SW1; Harvey Nichols, SW1

Hair and make up by Teresa Fairminer for Ellishelton, 75 Walton Street, SW3  
Photographs by ANTHONY CRICKMAY

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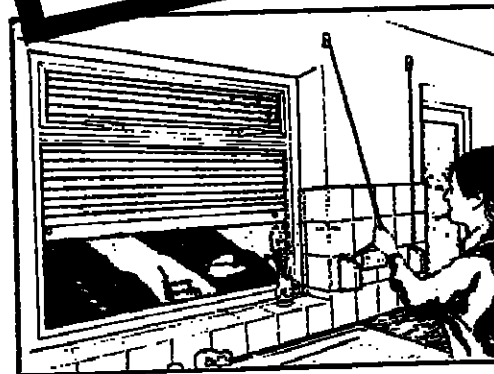
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## THE WEEK IN PREVIEW

## CONCERTS

**UNFINISHED, EROICA:** The Berlin Philharmonic plays well on the beaten path with Schubert's "Unfinished" and Beethoven's "Eroica" Symphonies. Daniel Barenboim conducts. Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (071-928 8800). Tomorrow.

**RAINFORCE FINALE:** Evelyn Glennie, Julian Bream, Richard Rodney Bennett and others gather for the final event of the Rainforest Festival. Barbican Centre, London EC2 (071-638 8891). Mon.

**THREE FOR BRAHMS:** The first of three concerts devoted to Brahms, including Adnan Thompson singing some of the highly romantic settings of poems from Tied's *Die Schöne Magelone*. St John's, London SW1 (071-222 1061). Tues.

**ASTRINGENT SYMPHONIE:** With the excellent Janina Fialkowska at the piano and Libor Pesek conducting The Philharmonia, Szymanowski's mildly acidic *Symphonia Concertante* surfaces in "Poland's Last Romantic". This is an exceptional programme, with Ravel's *Intimations* as well as intoxicating *La Valse*, Janáček's dramatically vivid *Taras Bulba* and Dmitri Shostakovich's *Violin Concerto No 2*. Festival Hall (as above). Wed.

**SCHUMANN'S 180TH:** Marking the exact 180th anniversary of Schumann's birth, Sarah Walker and Udo Reinemann share the 26 songs of his *Mythen* cycle, which he gave to his wife as a wedding present in 1840. This is the second of four anniversary recitals devised by Roger Vignoles, who accompanies. Wigmore Hall, London W1 (071-935 2141). Fri.

## DANCE

**KIROV BALLET:** London season opens with a week of *The Corsair*, a rollicking new version of an old classic full of the dancing and comical adventures. Coliseum, London WC2 (071-936 3161). Tues-Sat.

**NORTHERN BALLET THEATRE:** Three recent productions open a fortnight in London, including Ronald Hynd's frothy Offenbach work *Liaisons Amoureuses* and Gillian Lynne's *Lipizzaner* with Trinidad Savillano as guest star. Tues, Wed and Fri. Sadler's Wells, London EC1 (071-278 8916). Tues-Sat.

**STELLA:** Anne Teresa de Keersmaeker's adventurous company from Belgium opens Glasgow's summer dance season with a new work. Theatre Royal, Glasgow (041 331 1234). Fri and Sat.

## FESTIVALS

**SPITALFIELDS FESTIVAL:** The fourteenth festival in Nicholas Hawksmoor's 18th-century Christ Church, Spitalfields, features early 20th-century and Asian music. Highlights include Finzi's *Requiem da Camera* and Britten's *The Company of Heaven*. Box office (071-248 4280), St Paul's Churchyard, London EC4. From Thurs.

**ALDEBURGH FESTIVAL:** This year's festival has a strong American flavour, with Elliot Carter as one of the two composers in residence, plus performances in honour of the nineteenth birthday of Aaron Copland. Box office (0728 453543), High Street, Aldeburgh, Suffolk. From Fri.

## CINEMA

**DIAMOND SKULLS (18):** Gabriel Byrne as a jealous businessman involved in a fatal car accident. Gutsy drama set among the aristocratic fast set, with Amanda Donohoe, Michael Hordern. A fiction debut for documentary director Nicholas Broomfield. Cannon Shaftesbury Avenue, London WC2 (071-936 6279). From Fri.

**THREE WOMEN IN LOVE (18):** Attributable comedy of sexual manners from West German filmmaker Rudolf Thome, about a naïve young man who is taken up

by three women who run a men's clothing store. Cannon Shaftesbury, London W1 (071-437 3561). From Fri.

**CLEAN AND SOBER (15):** Incessantly bleak portrait of the difficulties in getting off cocaine, with Michael Keaton as a real estate executive hiding from his troubles in a rehabilitation ward. Directed by Glenn Gordon Caron. Warner West End, London WC2 (071-439 0791). From Fri.

**NOTEBOOK ON CITIES AND CLOTHES (U):** Wim Wenders's aggravating diary film about the Japanese fashion designer Yohji Yamamoto. Renoir, London WC1 (071-837 8402). From Fri.



The subtle and dependable actor Gene Hackman (above) leads a touch of class to *The Package*, an otherwise modest conspiracy thriller. Hackman stars as Sergeant Johnny Halliday, a no-nonsense career soldier sent back to America from Berlin with a human package — a court-martialled serviceman (Tommy Lee Jones). But the package is not what he seems. Hackman soon gets embroiled in murders and chases, just as the American President and the Soviet Union's Secretary-General meet in Chicago to celebrate a nuclear accord melting the Cold War for good. "The only similarity between *The Package* and what I've done before," Hackman says, "is working in the street — running a lot — like Popeye Doyle in *The French Connection*. Except it takes longer now to catch my breath." The film is directed by Andrew Davis, a former cameraman who has carved a niche in the action market. Odeon Leicester Square, London WC2 (071-930 6111), from Friday, certificate 15.

Still swinging: Lord Stockton with band-singers (l-r) Sheila White, Julia Sutton and Jenny Wren

Lord Stockton has spent the past three months planning *We Like Ike*, billed as "A Musical Centennial Celebration of the Eisenhower Years", in honour of the late US President, at the Festival Hall on Tuesday. The evening features two big bands, Jazz in Blue, the band of the Washington Air Guard, and the Squadronaires, originally formed from RAF personnel in 1939. These are joined by singers Elisabeth Welch and Carol Woods-Coleman and a trio performing an Andrews Sisters routine. The latter are in the photograph above, with Lord Stockton, who said this week: "It was my mad idea in the first place. If they could organize D-Day on one sheet of paper, then at least we should be able to organize a concert in three months. I am very pleased with the response and especially pleased that we are offering concession tickets to all members of the uniformed services which were involved in the war, including fire, ambulance and nursing, and to old-age pensioners and British Legion members, because although the money is going to a good cause, they might find the full prices hard to manage." All proceeds are going to fund the new Eisenhower Fellowships, a scholarship scheme to encourage the exchange of students between Britain and the US. Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (071-928 8800). Tuesday.

**CHELSEA OPERA GROUP:** The invaluable Chelsea Opera Group presents a concert performance of Verdi's *Ernani*, a full-blooded setting of Victor Hugo's extravagantly romantic play. Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (071-928 8800). Tomorrow.

**GLYNDEBOURNE:** Straightforward but observant production of Britten's *Albert Herring* by Peter Hall; John Graham-Hall is in the title role. Glyndebourne, Llewellyn, East

## OPERA

Sussex (0273 541111). Mon, Thurs and Sat.

**WELSH NATIONAL OPERA:** The theme of the loss of our spiritual instincts is powerfully treated in John Metcalf's new opera *Tannhauser*. The production is superbly directed by Mike Ashman. WNO, Empire Theatre, Liverpool (051 709 1555). Wed.

**ROYAL OPERA HOUSE:** Simon Rattle makes his debut at Covent

Garden in a new version of Janáček's *Čaekov's Little Vixen* by Bill Bryden; Thomas Allen and Lillian Watson lead the cast. Covent Garden, London WC2 (071-240 1066). Thurs (Proms performance).

**A MOZART ENCOUNTER:** John Eliot Gardiner conducts his period-instrument orchestra in a concert performance of *Idomeneo* with a strong cast headed by Anthony Rolfe Johnson and Anne Sofie von Otter. Queen Elizabeth Hall (as above). Fri.

## JAZZ

**SUN RA:** Cosmic nonsense from the rhinestone bandleader and his Arkestra, as they make one of their rare descents through the stratosphere. The Bluecoat, Liverpool (051 709 5297) Fri; Brixton Academy (with Cabaret Voltaire and A Guy Called Gerald) London SW9 (071-274 1525) Sun June 10.

**ARTURO SANDOVAL:** His last visit was the pretext for manic Latin-jazz trumpet and breakneck arrangements from a band which even added a phrase or two of Bach. Ronnie Scott's Club, London W1 (071-439 0747). Mon-Sat June 16.

## ROCK

**FEADAH 90:** Headed by Van Morrison, Christy Moore and Hothouse Flowers, this vast line-up of exclusively Irish acts marshalled on behalf of the Migrant Training Scheme Homeless Project is proof of the popular revolution that has swept both traditional and modern Irish music into the limelight in recent years. Also appearing: Paul Brady, Mary Coughlan, the Dubliners, the Black Velvet Band, Dolores Keane, Andy White, Energy Orchard, Shanty Dam, In Tua Nua. Finsbury Park, London N4 (081-963 0797). Tomorrow.

**THE BIG DAY:** Huge bash funded by Glasgow District Council, presumably in an attempt to use up some of those European City of Culture grants. Wet Wet Wet, Hothouse Flowers, Deacon Blue, Hue and Cry, Big Country, Sheena Easton, Adamski and John Martyn are just a few of the names to conjure with. George Square and Glasgow Green, Glasgow (041 227 5851). Tomorrow.

**THE SCREAMING BLUE MESSIAHS:** Dumped by Warner Bros, but still playing their convulsive, mutant guitar rock with enviable power and panache. Subterania, London W10 (081-961 6490). Mon, Tues.

**BELINDA CARLISLE:** "Heaven is a Place on Earth" started not renowned for the stirring quality of her live performances. SECC, Glasgow (041 248 3000) Wed; Apollo, Manchester (061 273 3775) Thurs, Fri.

**THE RED HOT CHILI PEPPERS:** Outrageous rap-metal four-piece

with a rare talent for getting themselves on magazine covers but less successful at placing their records in the charts. Brixton Academy, London SW9 (071-326 1022). Wed.

**JAMES:** Fashionably mellifluous Mancunian seven-piece who may have sacrificed some of their hip cachet by scoring a real (as opposed to indie) hit with "How Was it For You?". Barrowlands, Glasgow (041 226 4679) Tues; Lancaster University (0524 65201) Wed; Hull City Hall (0482 226655) Fri; Exeter University (0392 263528) Sat.

## PHOTOGRAPHY

**JUNE SELECTION:** For a show drawn from her extant files Kate Heller presents a dazzling array of talent, including Brandt Nudes, Blumenthal and Evans but with 12 works by Bruce Weber, the main attraction. Kate Heller Gallery, London W1 (071-287 8328). From Wed.

**THE PRINT'S THE THING:** A quotation from Irving Penn provides a theme for this exhibition examining the work of photographic printers whose skills often go unrecognized. The Association Gallery, London EC1 (071-608 1441). From Mon.

**AGAINST THE GRAIN:** Works from young photographers selected by Helen Chadwick and Eamonn McCabe (picture editor of *The Guardian*) and exploring many contemporary issues. Camerawork Gallery, Bethnal Green, London, E2 (01-980 8256). From Thurs.

## THEATRE

**ANNA CHRISTIE:** Natasha Richardson in the title role, John Woodvine as her father in the Eugene O'Neill play about reconciliation and filial love, directed by David Thacker. Young Vic, London SE1 (071-928 6363). Previews from Thurs. Opens June 14.

**EURYDICE:** Peter Meyer's translation of Anouilh. Michael Rudman directs Shirley Henderson, William Oxborrow, Simon McBurney, and Patricia Brake in the Orpheus/Eurydice myth updated to 1939. Minerva Studio, Chichester Festival Theatre (0243 781312). Previews from Wed. Opens June 11.

**HIDDEN LAUGHTER:** Simon Gray's

latest, directed by the author, with Felicity Kendal, Peter Barkworth, Richard Vernon and Kevin McNally. Vaudeville, London WC2 (071-836 9987). Previews from Wed. Opens June 12.

**THE TEMPEST:** Open Air promenade theatre production by the Dukes Theatre company, directed by Ian Forrest. Williamson Park, Lancaster (0524 66645). Opens Thurs.

**MAYDAYS DIALOGUES:** Second part of the Royal Court's political theatre initiative. *How Now Green Cow* by Julie Burchill; *The Wall-Dog* by Martin Karger; *Eastern Promises* by Antoni Libera: a triple bill; *Dialogue* by Mark Fisher MP: a rehearsed reading. Royal Court, London SW1 (071-730 1745). Triple bill opens Thurs. *Dialogue* Fri and Sat only.



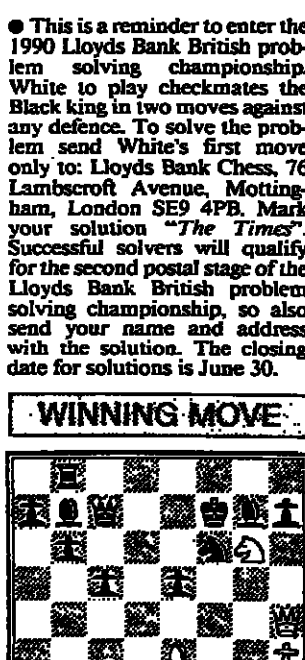
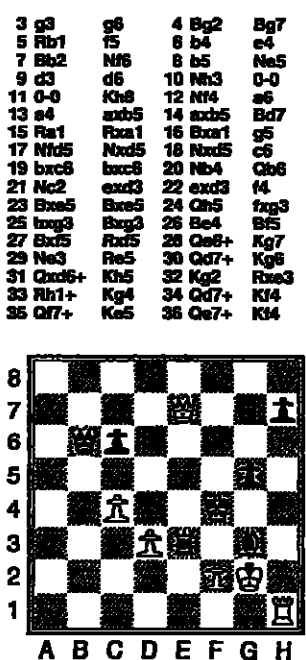
Richard Jones directs *The Illusion*, by Pierre Corneille, in the translation by Ranjit Bolt, at the Young Vic from this week. Our photograph above shows Duncan Bell and Sian Thomas in rehearsal for this comic play-within-a-play-twice-over by the great 17th-century Frenchman. Corneille has generally been known here, if at all, for the tragicomedy *Le Cid*, and for his long-running dispute with his contemporaries over the classical unities of drama and their supposed inviolability. For Bolt, who will be the subject of an interview on the Arts pages early next week, it is a second bite at Corneille comedy, since he had a considerable success with *The Liar*, directed by Jonathan Miller, at this theatre in the last repertory season. For Miller, who gave Bolt his first West End chance, it is yet another affirmation of his intention to bring neglected, and even unseen European drama, to London. *The Illusion*, Old Vic, London SE1 (071-928 7616). Previews from Thurs. Opens June 12.

## CHESS

It seems extraordinary to most people that chess grandmasters can play a coherent game with only five minutes each on their clock. At the dawn of tournament matches in the 1850s it was not uncommon for games to drag on over many, many hours, players with losing positions understandably reluctant to commit themselves to making moves which might further compromise their situation. Standard practice was to try to bore the opponent to death by inaction when things looked bad on the board. By the end of the 19th century this evil had been banished by the use of chess clocks, obliging the grandmasters, for example, to complete 40 moves in, say, two hours or face the humiliation of a loss on time.

In modern times this process has been accelerated. Two weeks ago, the World Champion Garry Kasparov won a speed chess tournament in Paris (ahead of Korchnoi, Spassky, Spelman...) in which players initially had 25 minutes each to make all of their moves. Ties were resolved by five-minute games of the variety mentioned at the start of this article. In the final Kasparov and Short won one game each, so the first prize of £20,000 was decided by the following hair-raising encounter, in which our own Nigel Short seemed to have excellent chances until his king wandered into the firing line. The whole game was played in less than 10 minutes total time.

White: Garry Kasparov. Black: Nigel Short. English Opening. Paris, May 20.



Today's problem is from the game Tukmakov (White) — Norwood (Black), Reykjavik 1990. Can you see how White wins material at once?

Send your answer on a postcard with your name and address to: The Times Chess Competition, The Times, Pennington Street, London E1 3NN. The first three correct answers drawn on Thursday next week will win a Times value-added personal chess computer. The winning move will be printed in *The Times* next Saturday.

Solution to yesterday's position: 1 Qd8+! Rh8 2 Re7+ Kb8 3 Rb7 mate.

Solution to last Saturday's competition: 1 Qd8+! Rh8 2 Re7+ Kb8 3 Rb7 mate.

The three winners of *The Times* chess computer are: Mr G. McCarthy, Camberley; Mr J. J. Carr, Linton; Mr J. J. Carr, Linton.

Raymond Keene

## BRIDGE

You are West, this is the trump suit, and the declarer, as soon as he gets in, leads the king:



Unless you have a good reason for wanting to be on lead, don't even think of playing the ace. In most hands it will suit the declarer to dislodge the ace of trumps early. Simply by exercising the privilege of refusal, you may create a problem.

Dealer West. Both sides vulnerable.



Opening lead: ♠Q.

South wins the opening diamond lead and plays a high trump. If he can draw precisely two rounds, there will be less risk of an overruff when he ruffs his losing diamonds.

Suppose that West releases the ace. South, when he regains the lead, draws a second round. With the fall of the 10, he can proceed to ruff his diamonds in safety. He loses just a club, a heart and the ace of trumps.

But if West refuses, South is kaput. A second trump allows

West to play a third, leaving South a trick short. To abandon trumps is no solution, as East will overruff in diamonds.

In a different situation, a defender who comes in with the ace of trumps may not be sure of the best return, but if he has held up the ace, his partner may now be able to make a helpful discard.

When deployed at the right moment, the ace of trumps can be much more than just a sure trick. Suppose that you are trying to run declarer out of trumps by repeatedly leading a suit that he must ruff. This time you hold up the ace of trumps until only the declarer, and not the dummy, can ruff your suit.

Dealer West. Both sides vulnerable.



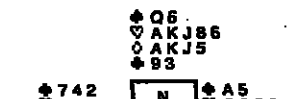
Opening lead: ♠Q.

West plays up clubs and South ruffs. If West elects to win an early trump lead there is no defence, as a club return can be ruffed in dummy. By twice refusing, West puts South out of business: West can win a third trump and shorten South fatally.

To get the best out of the ace of trumps, a spot of lateral

thinking is sometimes needed: the advantage of holding up may not be immediately apparent.

Dealer North. Both sides vulnerable.



Opening lead: ♠Q.

As East you win the club lead with the ace, South following with the 6. If West's 4 is fourth best, South will have at least three clubs, hopefully all losers. However, he is likely to have a six-card trump suit, so already you can count nine likely winners in the shape of five trumps and two aces-kings.

If you don't lead trumps, South will ruff a club for ten tricks. If you play ace and another trump, he will establish dummy's fifth heart by ruffing.

Somehow you have got to arrange to take three club tricks. Can it be done?

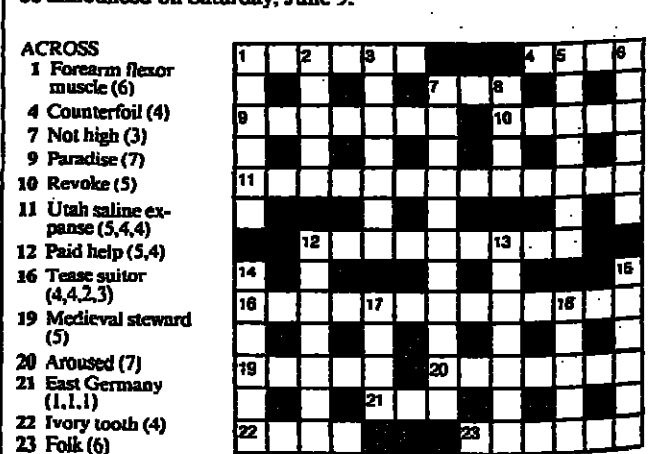
To let yourself be left with the bare ace of trumps is usually a poor idea, as you may be put in with this card at a time when you have no safe exit. Here, however, East's only defence is to lead a low trump at the second trick.

Albert Dormer

## CROSSWORD

## CONCISE NO 2192

Prizes of the Collins Concise Dictionary will be given for the first two correct solutions opened on Thursday June 7. Entries should be addressed to: The Times Concise Crossword Competition, 1 Pennington Street, London, E1 3NN. The winners and solution will be announced on Saturday, June 9.



**ACROSS**  
1 Forearm flexor muscle (6)  
4 Counterfeit (4)  
7 Not high (3)  
9 Paradise (7)  
10 Revolve (5)  
11 Utah saline expanse (5,4,4)  
12 Paid help (5,4)  
16 Tease (5)  
19 Medieval steward (5)  
20 Aroused (7)  
21 East Germany (11,1)  
22 Ivory tooth (4)  
23 Folk (6)

**DOWN**  
1 Kindly (6)  
2 Bend (3)  
3 Plantation owner (7)  
5 Beer mug (7)  
6 Carriage (6)  
7 Crime and violence suppression (3,3,5)  
8 Verruca (4)  
12 Sky (7)  
13 Commodity (7)  
14 Apparition (6)  
15 Heavy food (6)  
17 Pay attention (4)  
18 Outfit (3-2)

**SOLUTION TO NO 2191**  
ACROSS: 8 Henao 9 Apple 10 Tab 11 Poor start 12 Sweet 14 Henao 17 Anagram 19 Queer 22 Queen Anne 24 Cab 25 Index 26 Trumpet

DOWN: 1 Whites 2 Enable 3 Computer 4 Up to the minute 5 Mass 6 Splash 7 Better 13 Wan 15 Arquebus 16 Eve 17 Acquit 18 Amends 20 Except 21 Rebate 23 Nest

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_

The winners of last Saturday's Spring Jumbo Crossword Competition and the solution will be published on Saturday, June 16.



















# Challengers for Elliott's supremacy this season gather at the United Kingdom championships

## Christie's claim to be world No. 1

By DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

IF THE last week has suggested that Peter Elliott is likely to be Britain's athlete of the summer, events at Cardiff this weekend will no doubt remind everyone that he will not be short of challengers. Linford Christie, Colin Jackson and Steve Backley all make their first appearances of the season and each, like Elliott, expects, over the next three months, to become better athletes than ever before.

The Pearl Assurance United Kingdom championships, today and tomorrow, are no more than a trip to the corner store for Britain's super-market shoppers. Christie, Jackson and Backley should all pass the checkout in Split early in September with gold medals in their baskets; the silver medals will go to the three marked world records may have a British visitor or two also.

Elliott, at 27, probably has one more four-year cycle of international championships ahead of him; Jackson, 23, and Backley, 21, have at least two. But Christie has turned 30 since the indoor season and has little time remaining in which to fulfil his ambition to become world No. 1.

"It's not like being the world snooker champion," Christie said yesterday. "Everyone has had a go at sprinting and being No. 1 means you have to be the best there is." Christie's supporters have come to expect, however, and with Ben Johnson's two-year IAAF ban in place until September 25, he looks ripe for that position.

This weekend, "Baby Ben" will have to do. That is Christie's nickname for Jason Livingston, the junior who reached the senior European indoor 60 metres final. Livingston, dark, muscular and head-shaven, runs in the 100 metres. Christie won the Commonwealth 100 metres title in January with his fastest time to date, 9.93sec; although wind-assisted, it probably represented improvement on his legal 9.97sec in the Seoul Olympic final, given that he did not have Johnson and Carl Lewis to chase home. He ran six winter indoor races over 60 metres, winning every one and missing by a mere 0.01sec the world indoor record held by Lee McRae.

The message from Christie yesterday pointed to greater performance to come. "I am a lot stronger than I was last year," he said. His coach, Ron Roddian, confirmed: "He is lifting more pounds. His training has gone very well." Christie is entered for the 100 metres and 200 metres in

Cardiff and is considering running both.

Christie and Jackson have said there will be no world record attempts as such, but records may come as by-products of competition. "In the sprints, you can't claim you are going to do a world record," Roddian added. "You can't get a pacemaker — all you can do is beat a good field, on a good track, in good conditions and hope it comes off."

Jackson has raced over the flat this season, but this will be his first 110 metres hurdles. Uppermost in his thoughts is the Kingdom of the Roger variety and a United Kingdom win with a time inside 13.30sec would indicate that the American's position as world No. 1 is about to undergo a stronger challenge than Jackson's last year.

Backley resisted offers to throw his javelin in the United States this winter to concentrate on training. In that time, he had seen the Swede, Patrik Bodén, advance the world record to 89.10 metres. Backley's best is the 86.02 metres he threw to win the Commonwealth Games. After Bodén's massive improvement in the last 12 months, Bodén's record is perhaps less safe than those of Carl Lewis and Roger Kingdom.

Elliott, whose 1min 42.97sec 800 metres in Seville on Wednesday was a personal best three days after running the fastest mile in the world this year, 3min 51.80sec, is among the absentees this weekend.

However, Roger Black comes from Seville to Cardiff and he appears to be timing well his return to the forefront of competition. His 45.36sec 400 metres in Spain was encouraging after two years spent injured and augurs well for his prospects of defending his European title.

Others in Cardiff include Kriss Akabusi, who equalled his best 400 metres hurdles time of 48.59sec in Seville, Rob Denmark, whose national road relay leg suggests a good 3,000 metres, and Dalton Grant, who has yet to win a United Kingdom high jump title and may be prevented from doing so by Brendan Reilly, whose 2.27 metres in Southampton last weekend was a British junior men's record.

© PARIS: The multi-world record-holder, Said Aouita, of Morocco, undergoes a thigh operation here next Tuesday which could keep him off the athletics track for the rest of the year (AFP reports).



STEVE Cram lights the flame of hope as the 1992 British Olympic Appeal received a healthy financial boost yesterday.

restaurant in Piccadilly Circus, London.

Although the official fund-raising, to cover both the winter and summer Olympics, does not start until next year, the fast-food chain has donated £1.5 million towards the £3 million target.

Despite the recent controversy over

beef, Cram was also far from worried about eating a hamburger.

"We could have shown him an EEC certificate, which covers all our beef, but he seemed quite happy to tuck in without," a Burger King spokesman said.

## Ritchie ready for an ultra challenge

By BARRY TROWBRIDGE

THE eccentric branch of track and field takes to the roads of Nottingham tomorrow when the national 100km title is contested for the second time at the National Water Sports Centre in Holme Pierrepont Country Park.

The focal point of British rowing may seem an unlikely base for such a championship, but given that both officials and participants in ultra-distance running admit that it requires a lot of "character" to survive in the sport, it is perhaps not so unorthodox a venue.

The effort, alone, required to run 100km elevates ultra-distance runners way above the average marathon men and to concentrate for the equivalent of 2½ "London" or 250 circuits of the 400m track.

Don Ritchie, of Forres AC, set the absolute (track or road) world-best for 100km with 6hr 10min 20sec in the late 1970s, and will start among the favourites tomorrow, despite his 45 years having set a world indoor best for 24 hours running of 166 miles 429yds at

Milton Keynes in February. Trevor Hawes, who won the inaugural championship last year in 6hr 43min 55sec — three seconds inside Ritchie's road best — will not be defending his title, but the Scot can expect some strong domestic opposition from Gwyn Williams, of Club 62, and Terry Tullett, of Brighton and Hove, both of whom have best road times within a few minutes of his own.

Andrey Fedorov, of the Soviet Union, who has a best of 6:49:10, and Hans-Peter Roos, of Switzerland, who has run 6:49:49, head a large overseas contingent in the entry of 162, while Charles Khudube, from Botswana, will be worth watching, having earned his place in the line-up by winning the 72km Kalahari Desert race.

John Foden, the race organiser, said, as far as he could, he had tried to make the event as attractive as possible for its devotees, diamonds and Charles Khudube. With Africans already leading the world at cross-country, long-distance track and marathon running, few experts will be surprised to see them take over at the top of ultras.

## RUGBY UNION

### Wales preparing to rebuild against their nervous hosts

From OWEN JENKINS

THIS afternoon's first international between Namibia and Wales promises to be an exciting encounter. It's certainly a historical event, since this will be the first international between the two countries.

For Wales, it could signal the start of their return to the world rugby stage. They have five new caps in the side, four of them forwards — Glyn Llewellyn of Neath, Paul Knight, of Pontypridd, Paul Arnold, of Swansea, and Alan Reynolds, also of Swansea — and the scrum half, Chris Bridges, from Neath.

Namibia have some high quality players, notably Stoop, their full back, who has played more than 100 times for Wales. They are not unbeatable. My philosophy is that no one is better than we are until they prove it. Our national side is more or less the same one that we have had for the last two years, and the players know each other well. I have identified some weaknesses in the Welsh side which we will hope to exploit.

"We can win, depending a lot on the bounce of the ball, but I anticipate it being a very close match. Maybe a penalty will decide things."

In this respect, the refereeing of Fred Howard will be a crucial factor. The standard of refereeing in Namibia has been extremely low and both camps are concerned about certain areas of each other's play.

The Welsh have seen blatant lifting at the lineouts and have also been frustrated by bodies over the ball and pulling down of players in the mauls. On the other hand, Namibia say that the Welsh loose-head props are boring in, that there is barging in the lineouts, and have suggested that the Welsh forwards might be guilty of some foul play.

It is an amazing meeting of two different attitudes towards the game, but there is no doubt that Wales will be comfortable with Howard's refereeing style. Howard has met both coaches to put them in the picture as to what is required from both teams, and he Howard said: "The referees here lack experience. They've been fair, but it is a different dimension for them. I will never change the way I referee, they must adapt to the English style."

Wales: P Thornburn (Neath); S Ford (Cardiff); M Rennie (Cardiff); A Williams (Neath); A Emy (Swansea); A Clement (Swansea); C Bishop (Neath); M Griffiths (Neath); K Jones (Neath); P Knight (Pontypridd); M Morris (Neath); G Llewellyn (Neath); P Arnold (Swansea); B Reynolds (Swansea); S Smith; M Grier; J Bernard; S Loper; A van der Merwe; A Storer; T Oosthuizen. Referee: F Howard (RFU).

## YACHTING

### The jester doing a job for France

From PETER BILLS, SYDNEY

JACQUES FOURoux transported his own special brand of humour across the world this week as France prepared for an eight-match tour of Australia which begins against New South Wales in Sydney today.

Fouroux is here ostensibly as team manager with Daniel Dubroca officially described as coach. But at the first French training session only hours after landing, Fouroux was firmly in charge, cajoling, urging and bullying in his inimitable style.

But when asked just who was coaching the French, Fouroux replied with a thin smile: "That depends on the results."

The home defeat by Romania in Auch last week was attributed to "the bad weather and an English referee." A joke, a joke, the interpreter hastened to intone.

But there is a very serious side to this tour which includes three international matches. France must produce signs that his new team is on course to peak at the World Cup and in that context this month-long visit is crucial.

France have mixed up their playing talent for the New South Wales match, which is an interesting decision, given the proximity of the first international next Saturday and the experience in the local side. Cutler, Fray, and Poidevin, Knox, Juncie and Tynman all have varying points to prove, yet France rest obvious international players such as Sella, Sanz and Mesnel.

Blanco is the new captain and leads a side which contains a plethora of youthful potential up front. But the South African-born Eric Melville may be missing from the original side after a heavy knock in training.

Fouroux believes that away from the microscope under which the media at home, the pocket signs of progress he seeks will materialise. But if the French do not begin to put behind them a recent record of seven defeats in their last ten internationals, even Australia may be within range of the brickets which will be hurtled in Fouroux's direction.

FRANCE: M Rennie (Cardiff); A Williams (Neath); A Emy (Swansea); A Clement (Swansea); C Bishop (Neath); M Griffiths (Neath); K Jones (Neath); P Knight (Pontypridd); M Morris (Neath); G Llewellyn (Neath); P Arnold (Swansea); B Reynolds (Swansea); S Smith; M Grier; J Bernard; S Loper; A van der Merwe; A Storer; T Oosthuizen. Referee: F Howard (RFU).

### Safety is stepped up before the Round the Island race

By MALCOLM McKEAG

INCREASED co-operation between yacht race organisers and shipping operators, combined with a stringently-tightened regulations on the competitors themselves, are in force for today's Round the Island race, organised from Cowes by the Island Sailing Club.

Last year's race was marred when a Red Funnel hydrofoil on a scheduled Cowes-Southampton service collided with one of the 600 becalmed yachts waiting to start. The yacht subsequently sank and its crew was badly injured.

The hydrofoil captain has since been charged with offences under the Merchant Shipping Act in a case still to come to court, but to obviate the possibility of a similar accident, the Southampton Harbour Mas-

ter has issued a Notice to Mariners requiring commercial craft today to use a channel which will keep them away from the yachts.

The yachts themselves have been assigned designated waiting areas before the start, the traditional start line stretching right across The Solent has been altered, and all craft, including day boats such as Dragons and Eichelids, are now required to carry VHF radio telephones.

With an entry of 1,565 yachts involving an estimated 7,000 individual competitors, the race, which was first run in 1921, is one of the largest single sporting occasions in the country, although in Europe there are at least two bigger races: the Gotland Runt, around the island of Gotland, and the Zealand race, round the eponymous island.

Tony Bullimore's new 60ft trimaran, Spirit of Apricot, working up for this year's two-handed trans-Atlantic race, is expected to take line honours but for the majority, the 60-mile contest within their own class is the major interest.

The J Class Velsheda will race, and Harold Cudmore will be back at the wheel of White Crusader, the America's Cup 12-metre yacht, which is now converted for offshore racing. At least one competitor, Philip Colville, skipping his Dragon Geryon, has competed in all 53 previous races.

next challenge to be held off San Diego in 1992.

At the meeting, it was also decided to create an on-water umpire system in hopes of settling disputes as they happen, rather than resorting to protests in committee rooms long after the race has ended as in past America's Cup competitions.

Late challenges from an Algerian club and from Doctor's Point Yacht Club, of New Zealand, were rejected at the meeting after both missed last week's challenge deadline and failed to send the \$25,000 (approximately £15,150) entry fee.

## FISHING

### The sagacity of the brown trout

By CONRAD VOSS BARK

NOT all brown trout are brown. Fishing lochs and St Clair on the island of Barra this week, I caught beautiful wild trout with no brown in them at all.

These loch trout, have developed colours that are all their own. The back is a dark olive green but with a kind of luminous quality under the colour that makes them shine almost as if they were glazed.

The green lightens to a muted silver at the sides, speckled with dark spots ringed with carmine. Brown trout certainly, but not a sign of brown.

St Clair is a lovely stretch of water, nearer the size of Bladnoch, set between high mountains. Fishing here, or indeed, anywhere among the

hundreds of lochs on the far-distant islands is an experience to be cherished.

The water is much clearer than any water of any reservoir or gravel pit. I know of in England and much clearer than our chalk streams as they are today. It is so clear that you need the finest possible nylon cast and the smallest of flies.

Nymphs do not seem to find favour. You take fish on a Match Brown, a Greenwell or a Butcher on a hook no larger than a 14. These tiny flies can be seen for yards in such clear conditions and anything much larger and the trout either pick at it or run away.

There are lessons to be learned on these hill lochs. The

trout are wise. They have known for generations after generations the food that they need. They do not ignorantly come from steep ponds, have not been fed pellets, released from there into a bewildering world where they hit anything that flashes or moves. There is a whole world of difference between the stock fish and the wild.

Also, in the conditions under which you go fishing for St Clair, on Barra, was one of the lochs said to have been visited by St Columba in his journey. The path he took to the spring by the loch is marked by stones which are painted black with a white cross on them. They have been there for who knows how long. Fishermen take the same path when they go fishing.

## BOXING

### Odds are against Hodkinson in his challenge for title

By SRIKUMAR SEN, BOXING CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH punters have paid Paul Hodkinson, of Liverpool, the highest odds-on favourite to win the World Boxing Council featherweight title at the G-Mex Centre, Manchester tonight, despite the fact that Hodkinson's negatives outweigh his positives, against Marcos Villaseca, of Mexico, the world No. 1.

Hodkinson is 6-4 on and Villaseca 11-10 at the betting shops of Stanley Leisure, the sponsors of the bout. But even the thinking of B.J. Eastwood, Hodkinson's manager, does not reflect the confidence of the market. None of the "my boy will be too good for him" stuff from Ireland's biggest bookmaker. He remained cautious.

"I think Paul has a 50-50 chance," Eastwood said.

"It's a genuine life fight. I keep telling Paul that this man is not like his other opponents and he won't beat him in a hurry. Every day, I tell him to take his time."

Even though Hodkinson is without doubt the best boxer-fighter in Britain and has a repertoire of punches to rival any in the world, it is difficult to prefer him to Villaseca. The Mexican has the edge in skill, experience and durability.

No matter how charitable one feels towards Hodkinson, one cannot overlook the fact that he was floored in the first round by a man who had flown in just a couple of days before from Mexico — Eduardo Montoya, an ageing journeyman.

Eastwood maintains that Hodkinson has completely recovered from that setback and had not shirked fights in the gym. He was not hurt mentally for that fight against Montoya, Eastwood said. "He had some problems at home and had trained only for three weeks. This time he has been in training for seven weeks."

However, Eastwood does acknowledge that there are serious flaws in his man that could prevent one giving Hodkinson a unanimous vote of confidence.

Hodkinson's eyesight, though acceptable to the Boxing Board of Control, is not perfect. He is short for a featherweight and easy to hit. His punching distance is suspect. He has been 12 rounds only once and has tended to look ordinary against boxers who can absorb his blows and fight back.

But, more important than the flaws in Hodkinson is the quality of Villaseca. The Mexican has boxed four times for the title in the last four years; twice against Azumah Nelson, and once against Antonio Espartero and Jeff Fenech. Not even Hodkinson's staunchest supporters would want to see their man against any of the above three.

Eastwood, too, admits that he would not risk Hodkinson against Nelson, Espartero or Fenech.

Yet Villaseca gave Nelson the two hardest fights of his career; he drew with Espartero, and went the distance with the tough Australian, Fenech, after stepping off the plane in Australia just four days before the bout.

Villaseca, who comes from Acapulco, is believed to be as tough as Pipino Cuevas and Jose Luis Ramirez. He grew up on his father's smallholding, but learnt his boxing in the streets. He was small for his age and was always picked on by the local boys. One day, his friend told him: "Next time you tell me the kids beat you up, I'm gonna beat you up." Six months later, it was Villaseca who was picking the fights.

By the time he was 21, he had knocked out 28 of 35 opponents. In 1982, he won the Mexican Championship and defended it four times. A year later, he joined the stable of Ricardo Maldonado, Mexico's most successful manager.

Maldonado's stable world champions include Rubin Olivares, Bazzola Limon, Rene Arredondo and Espartero, said: "Hodkinson is a good fighter but he has no experience. He's a boxing novice. Villaseca will know too much for him. I expect Villaseca to win by the ninth round." Villaseca has not boxed for 10 months but Maldonado believes that "he will not make any difference."

Eastwood would have preferred to have taken the bout after two or three more contests, but said there was no way of knowing how Villaseca would perform. He said that Villaseca was the Mexican and Hodkinson had been nominated to box for the title vacated by Fenech.

"Villaseca is the easiest of the champions," Eastwood said. "Hodkinson wanted to fight him. Hodkinson realises that anything can go wrong in his career, particularly because of his eyesight problem. That was why he wanted to get the fight out of the way."

"I am hoping that we have caught Villaseca on the way down. Sometimes, under pressure, they suddenly grow old. He had a lot of fights; it could happen on Saturday night."

It could, but Hodkinson may have to pick himself up off the floor first to speed up Villaseca's progress. He said: "Roy Skeldon, Tipitron, has pulled out of Monday's British light-heavyweight title eliminator against John Foreman in Birmingham after cracking a knuckle in his left hand. The crowd at the match is hoping he can find a new opponent for Foreman and that the Boxing Board of Control will still sanction the fight as a title eliminator."

Spain's Policarpio Diaz, who knocked out Italy's Stefano Cassi, from Italy, in the third round in a bout in Madrid on Thursday night and retained his European lightweight boxing title for the sixth time. Diaz has won 28 of his 38 bouts, 18 of them on knockouts.

## BADMINTON

### Choong is planning an upset

By RICHARD EATON

THE former All-England champion, Eddy Choong, is planning what could become one of the biggest upsets in the history of badminton in the World team finals this weekend.

Choong, a frequent advisor of the Commonwealth team, coached to the Malaysian team, helped to mastermind the downfall of the second-seeded Indonesians on Thursday. Now, he believes, it is possible to shift the focus of the match to the best of the champions, China, in the Thomas Cup final tomorrow.

"We have a 30 per cent chance, but if we get everything right, it can be done," Choong said. Choong is right probably means, for the second successive match, winning the No. 2 singles and both the doubles, placing enormous responsibility on the Commonwealth's silver medal winner, Foo Kok Keong, perhaps the most improved leading player in the world, to beat Xiong Guobao, the World Grand Prix title-holder.

The Foo Kok Keong, as a contest, may last no more than a couple of hours. Better chances of toppling the Chinese rest with the South Koreans in today's Uber Cup final.

They have already inflicted the first-ever defeat upon the Chinese in this competition, in last Sunday's group matches. They know, therefore, that they can also become the first nation to stop China from retaining the title.

That, however, will be harder. The young Chinese side has been trying to fill the shoes of the greatest winners of the sport has known, following the near-simultaneous retirement of three famous world champions — Li Lingwei, Han Jing and Lin Ying — and is just getting used to the idea.

## MOTOR RALLYING

### Outsiders add extra flavour

WHILE Lancia and Toyota are expected to dominate the leader battle in the Acropolis rally starts from Athens tomorrow, the first European appearance of the British-built Subaru Legacy will hopefully add spice to the three-day contest (a Special Correspondent writes).

The Subaru Legacy led the Safari Rally briefly and has since undergone considerable testing, although its reliability is an unknown factor, the car, together with the Mitsubishi Galant, must be considered outsiders. The stage is so rough that suspension systems can be ripped out at almost any turn.



## SNOOKER

## Opening up the game to everyone

By STEVE ACTESON

SNOOKER'S professional membership will be asked in Blackpool on Monday to give initial approval to proposals that will revolutionise the game.

If the plans of the World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association come to pass, anyone will be able to enter professional tournaments, subject to a minimum age of 16 and the contents of their bank account.

To guard against the incompetent, membership would cost £500, with £100 annual subscription and £100 entry fee for each of the main tournaments.

If the membership approves the proposals, which were formulated last Tuesday by, among others, John Spencer, the WPBSA chairman and the game's two leading masters, Barry Hearn and Ian Doyle, the WPBSA will prepare a policy document for submission to an extraordinary general meeting which would have to vote through changes to the constitution.

Success would mean that Allison Fisher, the women's world champion, could forget the disappointment of rejected membership in April, excellent amateur players such as Peter Ebdon and Stefan Mrozowski could say farewell to the annual ordeal of trying to win a place in the play-offs for professional status, and professionals who have lost their tournament status could return to the circuit.

The entry fees would compensate the WPBSA for the extra administration, with a computerised ranking list of perhaps thousands of names rather than the present 128.

Among other changes suggested are changing the points system to one similar to tennis. If the Embassy world championship, for example, was worth £625,000 in prize-money, 625 points would be awarded to a player in each round that he won after the qualifying stages, when fewer points will be awarded.

There will also be a lesser and cheaper category of membership for hard-up young players to gain experience and points without incurring great expense. The main ranking events would have 192 qualifiers for the final stages instead of the present 128, the extra 64 coming from the primary qualifying competitions to be held at approved snooker clubs.

## FOOTBALL

## A friendly approach by oilman

MARTIN Deane, a wealthy oilman, is poised to make a "friendly" takeover bid for Birmingham City (Chris Morris writes). The supporter plans to put his offer to present owners, the Kumar brothers, next week.

"The club needs a major capital injection and I am prepared to give it," said Deane, aged 45, who runs Midland and Scottish Resources, owner of 44 per cent of the Emerald oilfield.

"Birmingham needs a successful club to support its name. I have been a fan since I was a boy and an passionate about the club without being stupid," he said. "I know money doesn't guarantee success and I realise there wouldn't be the slightest chance of any return on it. But at least it would give the club a chance."

Sameish Kumar, the chairman, confirmed last night he has had talks with Deane who has tried to take over Birmingham at the time the Kumars bought control from Ken Wheldon.

"At this stage we are not interested in selling, though there could be a position on the board for anyone interested in investing a large sum in the club," Kumar said. Birmingham are understood to be over £12 million in the red.

Wolverhampton Wanderers, of the second division, are set to take their summer spending past £500,000 by signing the Everton reserve goalkeeper, Mike Stowell. Having completed the £300,000 capture of the Derby defender, Rob Hindmarsh, earlier this week, Graham Turner, manager has now virtually sealed the purchase of a goalkeeper who played seven seasons on loan for the club last year. Stowell is out of contract at Goodison Park and, before going on holiday, indicated he would be joining Wolverhampton.

Steve Penney, Brighton's Northern Ireland international winger, is to have a fourth knee operation next week in an attempt to save his career. Penney, aged 26, has been dogged by persistent left knee trouble over the last three years and has not played for 17 months. He will be in plaster for six weeks and hopes to be able to play again by October. Last year he had two operations in the space of six months but they failed to cure the problem.

Colchester United, relegated to the Vauxhall Conference next season, have appointed Ian Atkins, a Birmingham City central defender, as their player-manager. Atkins, aged 33, has signed a two-year contract and will take control of the club week. He succeeds Mick Mills, who resigned a month ago.

Doncaster Rovers' 22-year-old forward, Lee Turnbull, looks set to leave the club after rejecting a new two-year contract. Rovers have already turned down an £80,000 bid for the former Middlesbrough and Aston Villa man, who was their second highest scorer with 14 goals last season despite playing mostly in midfield.

Queen's Park Rangers are to play five matches within eight days on a pre-season tour of Sweden from August 2.

Dual Derby winning trainer casts his eye over the principal contenders for Wednesday's Epsom classic

## Stoute plumps for Razeen

By MICHAEL SEELY  
RACING CORRESPONDENT

EVEN Michael Stoute, with the hard-earned experience of having won five Epsom classics, finds it difficult to assess the relative merits of Wednesday's Ever Ready Derby contenders.

"If my life depended on it, I'd go for Razeen to win from Zoman and Quest For Fame," said the 45-year-old reigning champion trainer after Salsabil had joined Rock Hopper as the second and final Freemason Lodge defector, leaving the stable without a runner.

"But it's certainly an unusual year."

As we enter the 1990s, 142 years after Benjamin Disraeli dubbed Britain's most important flat race as the blue ribbon of the turf, the prestige of the Derby has never been higher.

The fact that Dancing Brave, Reference Point, and Nashwan, the winners of three of the last four King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Diamond Stakes had all either won or finished second in the Derby speaks for itself.

The crock of gold at the end of this particular rainbow on Wednesday will not only include £600,000 in prize-money and all the prestige and glory. There are stallion values as well. At the end of last season, for example, Nashwan's owner, Hamdan Al-Maktoum, was enriched to the tune of £20 million.

Fuzzed foreigners raise their eyebrows in astonishment at the steep gradients and the switchback nature of this bizarre-looking testing ground in Surrey.

However, the high degree of adaptability needed to overcome the difficulties not only highlights a prospective championship racehorse but a prospective high-class stallion.

"It's a very severe test," says Stoute. "The horse has to have the temperament to withstand the long preliminaries. He also has to be well-balanced in order to gallop up and down hill. He has to have speed, and stamina as well."

So often the eventual winner appears to be galloping over his rivals a long way from home. "Above all, the horse has to be travelling within himself, going up hill and down. It's as much a matter of temperament as it is of speed. You've got to be going well within yourself going down the hill as that's when tired horses start coming back at you. And that's when the lazy ones get in to trouble as well."

The ability to stay 1½ miles is paramount. Blushing Groom, Shaded, El Gran Senor, Lomond, and Doyoun are among recent winners of either the English or French 2,000 Guineas whose stamina limitations were ruthlessly exposed at Epsom.

"Epsom's 1½ miles takes a lot of getting," says Stoute. "It's a stiffer test than the Curragh, for example. The times alone prove that."

Since Sir Ivor won in 1968, there has been a commonly-held theory that American-bred horses with top class 10-furlong pedigrees are guaranteed to stay the Derby distance. "That's all nonsense," Stoute says. "They have to stay as well. Sir Ivor stayed 1½ miles all right. After all, he finished second to Vaguely Noble in the Arc."

In the past few weeks the punters have been fastening on to Lianinix, the French 2000 Guineas winner. "Lianinix is obviously a very fast horse but he's by Mendez



Michael Stoute, without a runner in Wednesday's Derby, has released Walter Swinburn to ride Digression for Guy Harwood. Swinburn partnered Shergar and Shahrastani to Epsom glory for Stoute in the Eighties

out of a Breton mare. And I just can't see Mendez siring a Derby winner," Stoute reasons. "Zoman is a different matter. He's by the American triple crown winner, Affirmed, and must have a good chance of staying."

Top-class jockeyship is a prerequisite for the severe demands of the Derby track. Lester Piggott won a record nine Derbys and, of today's stars, Willie Carson has won three. Steve Causton, Pat Eddery, and Walter Swinburn, two apiece.

"Of course, the top men have good records," says Stoute. "It's a big occasion, and it's easy to get up tight. It's vital to keep cool and relaxed. But this certainly isn't against young Quinn on Zoman. He just hasn't had the chances that some of the others have had."

However, Gerald Mose, Lianinix's jockey, will be paying his first visit to Epsom. "That's an entirely different matter. He just won't know what to expect," Stoute went on. "It's no disrespect to the boy's ability or to his coolness to say this, but it's got to be

disadvantageous."

To be able to assess the possible opposition is a vital tool in any trainer's trade. And about Henry Cecil's lightly-raced favourite, Razeen, Stoute said: "He's a late foal and impeccably-bred for the job. If he goes and wins it two or three lengths, we'll all say that it was staring us in the face."

"The horse is just coming to himself. And although the form of the Predominate is nothing to write home about, Razeen couldn't do more than win by four lengths. And he didn't seem to be doing a lot in front."

For second place, Stoute goes for Zoman and considers Quest For Fame, runner-up to Belmez in the Chester Vase, the best each-way bet. "He's sure to stay. And at the time of the Vase, Belmez was the No 1 Warren Place hope. I also thought Quest For Fame was a bit unlucky as Pat appeared to get out-manoeuvred by Steve."

The only other well-backed horse left in the race are Blue Stag, Barry Hills's Dee Stakes winner, and Elmsamul, Dick

Hern's candidate, who was badly hampered when seventh in the 2,000 Guineas, and again when runner-up to Razeen at Goodwood. Carson's mount has been heavily backed in the past three days following reports of a brilliant gallop in blinkers at Newbury.

"Blue Stag looked lazy at Chester and might have difficulty in holding his place. The same goes for Elmsamul. The blinkers would have to have a very dramatic effect indeed as the record of blinkered horses in the Derby is not good."

So, what manner of winner can we expect to see on Wednesday? Some marvellous champions have stormed to glory at Epsom in recent times. Stoute himself saddling Shergar to win by a record 10 lengths in 1981.

"I only saw Sea Bird win on television. But he was the best I've seen. Of the others, Nijinsky, Mill Reef and Shergar were all outstanding. There's unlikely to be one of them around next week but whatever wins will be pretty good. A bad horse never wins the Derby."

## Eddery sides with Quest For Fame as Derby takes shape

By MICHAEL SEELY

PAT Eddery has chosen to ride Quest For Fame, Khaled Abdulla's Chester Vase runner-up for Roger Charlton, in preference to Guy Harwood's Goodwood disappointment Digression in next Wednesday's Derby.

"He's a horse I like and he looks certain to stay," said the champion jockey at Nottingham yesterday. "He was a close second in a group race over the Derby distance at Chester and won't mind firm ground."

Walter Swinburn has been booked to ride Digression in Eddery's place and plans to visit Pulborough tomorrow and Monday to get to know his prospective big-race mount.

Other jockey news is that Michael Kinane is to ride River God, Henry Cecil's second string. The champion Irish jockey, who won the 2,000 Guineas on Tiro, is to fly to Newmarket over the weekend to get to know River God.

Other bookings announced were those of Alan Munro for Paul Kelleway's Sobor Mind and Michael Roberts for the Alec Stewart-trained Kabeel.

The continuing open nature of this year's Derby was illustrated by the fact that there were 18 declared at yesterday's five-day stage of acceptors, four more than expected.

Both Eddery and Richard Quinn were in sparkling form at Nottingham, the champion landing a double of over 6-1 on Magical Dream and Royal Hunter. Not to be outdone, Quinn gained a double of 116-1 by winning the opening Cinderhill Fillies' Stakes on Dale Hill Daisy and the Mail On Sunday Three-Year-old Handicap on Magic Express for Mohammed Moubarek.

John Dunlop was at Colwick Park to watch Eddery gain his second win when riding the Arundel-trained Royal Hunter to a decisive 2½-length victory over Avra with the odds-on favourite, Alderley, a disappointing third.

The nearest that Quinn has so far come to winning the Derby was when sixth on Reach. "I've had four or five rides in the Derby, but I've had plenty of experience of Epsom and I'm looking forward to the ride."

Speaking from Betchworth, Cole said that Zoman is likely to be sent to Epsom on Monday night. "He'll have his final pipe-opener on Saturday. We're virtually certain to send him to Epsom on Monday. I'd like him to have a mile and a quarter canter round the track on Tuesday morning to get him some experience of the course."

The principal reservations about the third favourite concern his possible stamina. "We're very hopeful that he'll stay," the trainer continued. "But we can't be certain because we haven't been able to find out too much on the firm going."

3.45 EVER READY DERBY (Group 1; £355,000; 3-Y-O colts and fillies; 1m 4f) (18 five-day acceptors)

11-02	AROMATIC (K. Abdulla) H Harwood 9-0	9/10
11-03	BATTLE DAY (H. Charlton) T. Smith (avg 9-0)	9/10
11-04	BOULEVARD (K. Abdulla) H Harwood 9-0	9/10
11-05	BLUE STAG (H. Charlton) T. Smith (avg 9-0)	9/10
11-06	QUEST FOR FAME (R. Charlton) P. Eddery 9-0	9/10
11-07	QUEST FOR FAME (R. Charlton) P. Eddery 9-0	9/10
11-08	QUEST FOR FAME (R. Charlton) P. Eddery 9-0	9/10
11-09	QUEST FOR FAME (R. Charlton) P. Eddery 9-0	9/10
11-10	QUEST FOR FAME (R. Charlton) P. Eddery 9-0	9/10
11-11	QUEST FOR FAME (R. Charlton) P. Eddery 9-0	9/10
11-12	QUEST FOR FAME (R. Charlton) P. Eddery 9-0	9/10
11-13	QUEST FOR FAME (R. Charlton) P. Eddery 9-0	9/10
11-14	QUEST FOR FAME (R. Charlton) P. Eddery 9-0	9/10
11-15	QUEST FOR FAME (R. Charlton) P. Eddery 9-0	9/10
11-16	QUEST FOR FAME (R. Charlton) P. Eddery 9-0	9/10
11-17	QUEST FOR FAME (R. Charlton) P. Eddery 9-0	9/10
11-18	QUEST FOR FAME (R. Charlton) P. Eddery 9-0	9/10

3-1 Razeen, 11-2 Lianinix, 6-1 Zoman, 7-1 Blue Stag, 8-1 Quest For Fame, 9-1 Elmsamul, 10-1 Digression, 14-1 Duke Of Paducah, 16-1 River God, 20-1 Kurling Day, 50-1 Battle Day, Kabeel, 10-1 others.

## Stage set for Theatrical Charmer

By CHRISTOPHER GOULDING

THEATRICAL Charmer, arguably the best three-year-old colt in Britain, will not be riding the Derby roller-coaster at Epsom on Wednesday, as he was not entered. Instead, he seeks consolation in tomorrow's Prix du Jockey-Club Lancia at Chantilly.

"I would be more than happy if he was to win the French Derby," said Alex Scott, the colt's trainer. "Old Vic, last year's French Derby winner, did not run at Epsom but was still recognised as the best colt. I hope the same will apply to my horse."

"Of course I would have liked to run at Epsom. You want the best horses in the Derby. It's a high price to pay for an error. I certainly would have liked the opportunity of a supplementary entry."

"Last year, when Sheikh Hamdan Al-Maktoum won the Derby with Nashwan, he achieved something which may never happen again in his lifetime. The Derby is the ultimate race, there is no getting away from that fact."

On his only two racecourse appearances, both this season, Theatrical Charmer's bay coat has yet to be tarnished with sweat. "He is an exciting horse to train," enthused Scott. "He enjoys his exercise and will do everything that is asked of him. Scott runs a hand over the agile bay's lean frame, it is true and ready for combat with his main protagonist, Epervier Bleu, the unbeaten French colt.

Of the thousands of hooves that daily pound the Epsom market, Scott's colt, the son of the phenomenally successful sire, Sadler's Wells, has been one of the first to take advantage of the untrodden turf.

"With the ground being so firm, if I want to get the best ground on the watered gallops, we have to be out there at six o'clock," explained Scott, as he juggled with two portable telephones in his car, formulating plans.

The 30-year-old trainer, now in his second season training, has made a meteoric start to his career. Only the sleeping policeman, placed across the Hamilton Road, the approach to Scott's lavish Oak Stables, slow down the young trainer's

progress. Principally a trainer for Makroum, the Crown Prince of Dubai and the eldest of the four Makroum brothers, Scott took over the Oak Stables from the late Olivier Stables. The Sheikh's 45 horses make up one half of the stable's total.

Scott, not surprisingly, defies the Arab dominance in racing. "Everybody likes competition and their serious involvement has not stopped it. I know a lot of people don't play any more, but look at what the Aga Khan and the Horgan brothers have achieved."

"I remember when Robert Sangster was going well, everybody said it would be bad for racing. The Sheikh has enabled us to keep the best horses in the world in this country."

"It has also been beneficial for jumping as many smaller owners have left the Flat and become involved in National Hunt racing."

Last season, Scott came close to winning his first classic when Great Commonion finished runner-up to Shaadi in the Irish 2,000 Guineas. But if classics have temporarily eluded Scott, sprint group events have become his forte.

Cadeaux Genereux finished the season as sprint champion of Europe after victories in the July Cup and the William Hill Sprint Championship.

Magic Giant's consistency was rewarded when she collected the group two Child Stakes over a mile. Another highlight was Penitente capturing the Norfolk Stakes at Royal Ascot, and by the end of his first season Scott had reaped 24 victories.

"I hope I am showing enough patience with my horses, they are very delicate animals. I tend to think my horses will improve on their initial outing."

The Eton-educated Scott became involved in racing during his school holidays when he rode out for Bill Wighman. "I became interested in race-riding and rode a few point-to-point winners and had aspirations of becoming a jockey until my weight went up."

It was from his parents' involvement with Coup De Feu, the winner of the 1974 Eclipse, that Scott became fascinated with the speed element of Flat racing. "So far, most of my horses have been successful in races under a mile. It would be very depressing training slow horses."

After reading theology at Cambridge, the analytical Scott spent a year with Peter Calver in Yorkshire. "He used to call me God's apprentice and expected me to organise the weather to suit him."

Four seasons were later spent at Newmarket with Tom Jones, a renowned trainer of trainers. Further knowledge was gleaned as an assistant to Dick Hern.

"Scott said: 'The Major has a very clear approach to training, with a wealth of experience. It is total commitment. He has many attributes which include his ability to inspire loyalty from those around him. There are not many owners that leave West Ilsley.'

"At the moment everyone wants to know me. We have had five winners from seven runners this week. But when you're not going well, you just have to live with it on your own."

Come tomorrow afternoon at Chantilly, Scott will be hoping Elie Lellouche, Epervier Bleu's trainer, is not the one everyone will be talking about.



Alex Scott and Theatrical Charmer look to Chantilly for possible classic glory

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Express Edition, owned by a group of 200 readers of The Aberdeen Journal, recorded her second victory within two weeks at Hamilton Park yesterday with an easy 2½ lengths victory in the Palace House Stakes.

Her Newmarket trainer Mark Tompkins explained: "Last year, readers of the Blackpool Gazette paid £40 to become owners and finished up getting £39 each back. It gets ordinary people to become interested in racing."

However, the Aberdeen owners lost the horse because Jack

Ramden claimed Express Edition for £10,252.

Francis, a 14-1 chance, was a shock winner of the Glenagoyne Single Highland Malt Scotch Whisky Handicap.

David Nicholls, using forcing tactics, went ahead over three furlongs out to provide the Hamilton trainer William Pearce with his second success in as many days.

He said: "Francis is owned by Hambleton Thoroughbred Racing, which last year managed 10 victories from as many horses."

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## Epervier Bleu has Sunday best look

FROM OUR FRENCH RACING CORRESPONDENT, PARIS

EPERVIER Bleu, trained by Elie Lellouche, can hold off a three-strong British challenge for the Prix du Jockey-Club Lancia (French Derby) at Chantilly tomorrow.

Best of the French outsiders may be the unbeaten Red De Rome. He looked as though he would appreciate today's distance when putting up a brave effort to maintain his unbeaten record in the Prix de Guiche at Longchamp in April.

The five-furlong Prix de Gros Chene has attracted three British runners in Nabeel Dancer (Pat Eddery), Hinari Video (Bobby Elliott) and Zanolli (Bruce Raymond). However, Epervier Bleu has a tough task against Ron's Victory, a 10-1 favourite, a runaway winner of the Prix de Saint-Georges last time out. He is a possible French challenger for Royal Ascot's King of the Stables.

Channel 4 will show a recording of the race at 6pm tomorrow.

Willie Carson teams up with Alex Scott's highly-rated Theatrical Charmer, who has looked brilliant in winning his only two races, at Kempton in April and Newmarket in May. Gallops reports have also indicated that Theatrical Charmer may be something out of the ordinary but he has yet to show anything approaching the calibre of horse he meets here.

With Quest For Fame running at Epsom, Roger Charlton sends his Danes Stakes winner Lianinix to the Prix de Saint-Georges, a 10-1 favourite, a runaway winner of the Prix de Saint-Georges last time out. He is a possible French challenger for Royal Ascot's King of the Stables.

Michael Bell, Cole's former assistant, is represented on the same card by Sir Basil (Quinn), who faces four rivals in the Premio Emilio Turati (1m) at San Siro, Milan, tomorrow for Paul Cook (1m).

SECRETARY OF State (Richard Atkins) can land the group two Premio Emilio Turati (1m) at San Siro, Milan, tomorrow for Paul Cook (1m).

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## Award for the Burrells

PETER and Margot Burrell, owners of Be My Chief, the leading two-year-old of last season, were presented with the Courage Flat Racehorse Owner's Award at the Berkeley Hotel yesterday.

Last season, Be My Chief was successful in all of his six outings, which was highlighted by his victory in the Racing Post Trophy at Newcastle. This season, the Henry Cecil-trained colt has yet to set foot on a racecourse.

Syrell Griffiths, the owner and trainer of the Cheltenham Gold Cup winner, Norton's Coin, will receive the Courage National Hunt Owner's Award for his achievements in the autumn.



















TRAVEL

# Grace notes from the Nile Rhapsody

PHOTOGRAPHS BY ABBIE ENOCK

**Robin Neillands**  
observes the  
deadly effects of  
culture glut on a  
cruise to the  
wonders of  
Ancient Egypt



Smooth sailing across the centuries: feluccas, the Nile's traditional transport, on the river at Aswan gliding by rock tombs, and (left) scaffolding mars the view as work continues to restore the smile to the decaying face of the Sphinx

Even as we queued to climb the gangplank at Aswan, I could tell that our Nile cruise was going to be fun. We stood in the sunshine, ignoring each other as the English will, silently wondering who on earth these other people were, half-wishing we hadn't come. The serious travellers, those who wished to advertise that they had been about the globe a bit, were each clutching bottles of Malvern Water and at least two thick guidebooks. I had the Lonely Planet paperback *A Survival Guide to Egypt and the Sudan*, and a thick wad of hieroglyphic postcards. Hieroglyphic postcards are one of the lesser-known delights of a Nile cruise, for after careful study of the outlines on the shiny side of the card, you can bombard your friends with "Wish you were here" written in hieroglyphs. Nowhere else can you do this.

Looking on the bright side, I felt that our choice of the Nile Rhapsody for our first Nile cruise had been a wise one. She is a small ship, with only 18 cabins, but brand new and beautifully fitted with all the creature comforts. There are now about 150 cruise ships plying the waters of the Nile, but some are quite old and some are quite noisy. The thought of spending two weeks in a floating disco jars with the idea of a voyage through the Ancient World. Besides, those other ships were clearly full of foreigners. We could see them now, a Euro-queue of people, all shrieking at the tops of their voices as they fought their way on board.

The Nile Rhapsody caters for the British, so we continued to queue patiently for our cabins and ignored each other as much as possible. I knew that this residence would not last but it all looked very promising as we went in to lunch. Lunch was excellent, but then Thomas Cook has been operating cruise ships on the Nile for more than 100



Oranges are not the only fruit: Cairo street scene

years. Indeed, the company organized the shipping for the expedition sent to relieve General Gordon in Khartoum. Travellers on the Nile have to decide in advance just how much culture and history the human frame can cope with, for there is a lot of it about and it is all too easy to go down with culture glut. I planned to take in only the highlights, while using my *Survival Kit* to seek out some of the lesser-known sights. Highlights include the temples at Abu Simbel, a felucca cruise at Aswan, a visit to the Valley of the Kings and the Karnak Temple *son et lumiere* at Luxor, plus a quick sprint

round the Tutankhamun exhibits in the great museum in Cairo. As I have got my *Essential Signs of the Louvre* visit down to 11 minutes flat, Tutankhamun was a new challenge. For the rest, since Egypt is indeed a rare and wonderful place, I would fit in the Sphinx and the odd pyramid, and include the occasional tomb or temple on the way up-river. Otherwise, I would sit on deck in the warm Nile sunshine, acquire a slight tan and observe the antics of my fellow passengers...

Abu Simbel lies 185 miles south of Aswan, and we had already flown in there for a quick look and a photo-

opportunity before joining the ship, so that left the felucca cruise to Kitchener's Island and the Aga Khan's tomb to fill in the rest of the day. This is fairly standard stuff, but not many people stop for a look at the Pharaohs' Nilemeter, which measured the flood height of the river and so fixed the level of taxation for the *fellahin*. The higher the river the better the crops, so the more you must pay; don't blame Pharaoh. This lies under a sycamore tree near the Aswan Museum and is well worth a look. Then I crept off to have tea on the terrace of the Cataract Hotel. This is where Agatha Christie wrote *Death on the Nile* while her husband, Professor Mallowan, was excavating hereabouts. On the only occasion I ever met Miss Christie (and if you can't drop names here, where can you drop them?) she told me that the great advantage of marrying an archaeologist was that the older she got the more interested in her he became. That apart, as the local Tourist Board confirmed later, nothing has done so much for Nile tourism as Miss Christie's book and the subsequent film. A spot of research in the bar that evening added to this impression. Once the usual, almost statutory, "Well, we've been everywhere else, so I said to Gerold, "Darling..." stuff had been got out of the way, almost all my companions admitted to the influence of *Death on the Nile*.

The daily routine on a Nile cruise ship is soon established. There is the morning visit to tomb or temple, which is best made before the sun gets too hot. Then follows a long morning cruise to the next port of call, during which you sunbathe on deck, or support the bar, or have lunch. Then comes another visit to yet another temple or tomb, perhaps with a spot of shopping in the bazaar - and Egyptian shopping is very good - before another evening cruise and then dinner, the bar and backgammon. This is a very pleasant way to travel, studying the wonders of the past while watching Egypt slip by along the shore, where nothing seems to have changed much in several thousand years. In this way we passed on to Kom Ombo and Edfu, both of which are well worth going ashore for, and so to Luxor

and Dendera. However, by the time our ship reached Dendera, I did detect a certain flagging of enthusiasm on board, often in some surprising places. The serious travellers were the first to succumb and pass up the tomb or temple visit for a lazy time on deck.

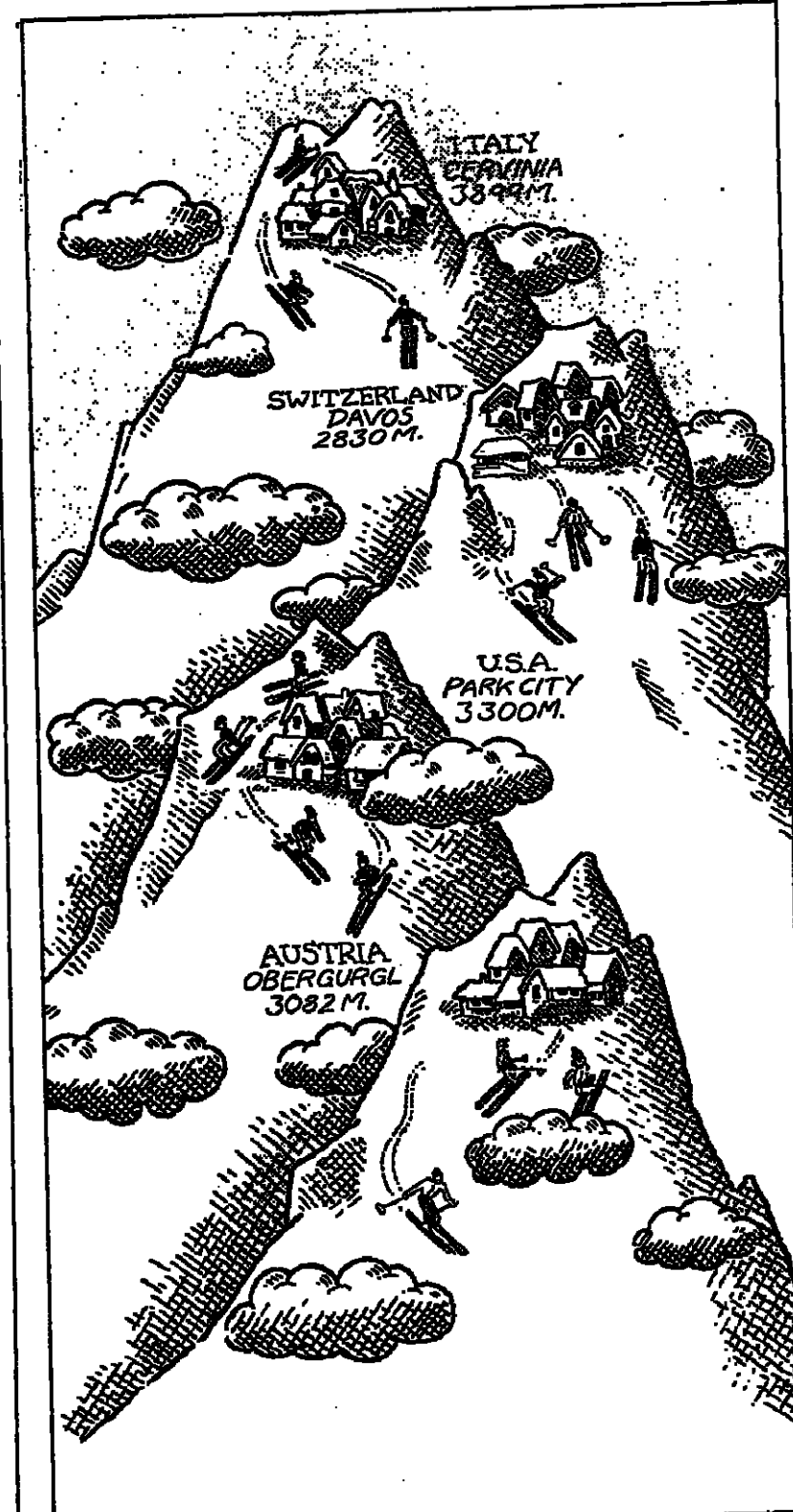
This condition was referred to as being "tombbed-out", as in: "I'm afraid Glynn is 'tombbed-out' and will not be joining us this morning." On

the other hand, the most unlikely people had already fallen completely under Egypt's spell. For example, my wife, who thinks an intellectual is someone who reads Jeffrey Archer in hardback, went on every excursion no matter how early, hot or dusty, and returned to rave over it. I stuck to my planned visits or simply sat on deck and wrote more hieroglyphic postcards. This was frowned on by the serious travellers and I

suffered social death on the Nile. Everyone turned out to visit the Valley of the Kings and the evening performance at the Temple in Luxor. I am glad I visited the Valley of the Kings, even if every vista was obscured by a mob of Italians, and the *son et lumiere* at Karnak is a splendid spectacle, especially if your guide has briefed you on how to reach each point on the tour in time to gain the front rank of the crowd.

Back in Cairo, we led the morning rush to the Tutankhamun exhibits at the Museum and enjoyed 10 minutes of tranquillity before the Italians came surging up the stairs. Later on, we saw the Sphinx and rode on a camel, photographed the Pyramids and boosted the local economy with a shopping spree in the bazaar. On the flight home we were one little tight-knit community, but our planned reunion never took place.

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**Ski Thomson**

### TRAVEL NOTES

- The best months for visiting Egypt are from October to Easter. From May to September it can be very hot.
- Thomas Cook took the first party up the Nile in 1889, and the company's Nile Rhapsody cruises, 14 nights including an optional visit to Abu Simbel and two days in Cairo, with full-escorted excursions, costs from £1,245. Details on this and other Nile cruises from Thomas Cook on (0733 332255).
- A *Survival Guide to Egypt and the Sudan* (Lonely Planet, £5.95).



No laughing matter: Tutankhamun's gold coffin in the Egyptian Museum in Cairo

\* 2 free places in 10 for group bookings of 10 or more people departing on or between 5/17 January 1991. Up to 75% off for children aged between 2 and 11 inclusive on the day of departure staying in Family Choice accommodation sharing a room with 2 full fare paying passengers and departing on or between 5/20 January 1991. Vouchers worth £10 (all purchases of £200 or £20 off every £100 spent) on Skiwear at C&A before 15/12/90. Holidays and offers subject to availability. Thomson Holidays Ltd ATOL 152 ABTA 58212.



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This amazing opportunity will be difficult for you to believe, but it is totally genuine in every way. Not only can you invest in a truly superb Timeshare on the beautiful island of Tenerife, but when you do you can also start planning all your future holidays at any of nearly 2,000 of the best resorts in over 70 of the most exotic countries in the World using the R.C.I. exchange facility and even better, Club Tenerife pay your first 2 years' R.C.I. membership fees.

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(RCI RED TIME)

## £1,995

PER WEEK

## MEDIUM SEASON

(RCI WHITE TIME)

## £1,695

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This price is for each week you purchase in a superb fully fitted sea facing apartment accommodating up to 4 people in luxury. It belongs to you or your family in perpetuity! You can use it, rent it out, sell it, bequeath it, exchange it for holidays at any other resort and take up to four people along or do with it whatever you wish.

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This is a genuine opportunity to invest safely and securely with a large reputable British Company with offices in the U.K., Spain and the Canary Islands in top quality Timeshare in one of the top locations in the World with the peace of mind that all transactions are handled by the World's largest timeshare trustees and governed by the strict code of conduct by which all members of the Timeshare Developers Association are bound including a full five day cooling off period as a right. Prices are subject to documentation charge.

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مكتبة المجلد